

# CLASS WAR

## Internationalist News and Analysis

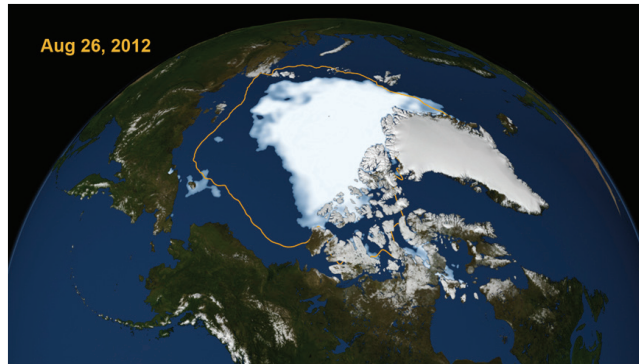
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**Defeat the Zionist  
Colonial Settler State!  
Defeat the IDF!**

**For Peace, Jewish Workers  
Must Defeat the Jewish  
Capitalist Class and  
Unite with the  
Palestinian, Egyptian,  
Syrian and Iraqi  
Workers to Drive  
Imperialism Out of  
MENA!**

**FOR A SOCIALIST  
PALESTINE AS PART  
OF A SOCIALIST  
FEDERATION OF  
MENA!**

**Climate Change:  
The Workers Revolutionary  
Socialist Solution  
or a Class Peace Planetary  
Suicide Pact?**



*This graphic shows the extent of Arctic sea ice on Aug. 26, 2012, the day the sea ice dipped to its smallest extent in more than three decades of satellite measurements, according to scientists from NASA and the National Snow and Ice Data Center. (Image: NASA)*

*The events of the last weeks that saw a renewal of open hostilities between Israel and Hamas have an element of déjà vu in them. Once more the Zionist state steps up its oppression of the West Bank using as a pretext the killing of three Israeli youth. Once more the Palestinian masses rise up in resistance as Arab youth are killed and hundreds arrested. Yet we are not taken in by the arguments for or against renewed hostilities; they are a ritual exchange between the Zionist ruling class and the Palestinian bourgeois factions [Hamas](#) and [Fatah](#) to negotiate the division of Palestine. The two factions are using the Palestinian masses as no more than expendable pawns in their battle for supremacy. Lost in this exchange is the truth of what underlies this conflict between the Zionist oppressor state, and an oppressed occupied state. While both regimes negotiate with missiles the Palestinian masses pay the price in blood. The leaders continue to sell out to Israel. In selling out they prevent the Palestinian struggle for self-determination from arming independent militias and uniting their forces with the other armed struggles in the surrounding Arab states. We are for a revolutionary party and program for the defeat of the Zionist state and for a Socialist Palestine in a United Socialist States of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA)!*

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**There is No Justice in  
Capitalist America!  
Down with the Militarization  
of the Police!  
For Labor, Black and  
Brown Defense  
Against Racist  
Police Terror!**

In the spate of police executions and vigilante murders from [Amadou Diallo](#) to [Oscar Grant](#) to Michael Brown a popular notion has gained ground that the police are out of control.<sup>1</sup> The police are in fact under control and are a fully operational part of the state terror directed against black, brown and immigrant communities. Since the murder of Trayvon Martin, the exoneration of Zimmerman has shown complicity of the entire state apparatus with the racists' terror program. Amadou Diallo's executioners were exonerated; Oscar Grant's executioner, Johannes Mehserle was freed with a slap on the wrist and to date there has been no arrest or even charges brought against Michael Brown's police executioner. Instead we see the resignation of the U.S. Attorney General Holder who had promised justice to the citizens of Ferguson, Missouri, a promise he could neither keep nor keep his job after making.

It has been [reliably established](#) that a black person is killed by cops or vigilantes every 28 hours in the U.S.A.<sup>2</sup> Only the most flagrant abuses of police brutality and terror come to light, while the black, brown and immigrant communities face daily harassment, beatings and murder at the hands of the racist cops. We record the victims. As self-appointed class memory we strive to keep alive the names of all of the victims of racist police terror that come to our attention. The [list](#) goes far back across the whole of U.S. history and the one thing we are sure of is that we will never know them all.<sup>3</sup> The purpose of this article is not to present an all-inclusive list, an impossibly incomplete roll-call of conscience. Furthermore, between the time we write this and the time this is in your hands, there will be more outrages as

In 1965 the Science Advisory Committee to President Lyndon Johnson warned him that the continued use of fossil fuels "...will [modify the heat balance of the atmosphere](#) to such an extent that marked changes in climate, not controllable through local or even national efforts, could occur."<sup>1</sup> Forty nine years later, after years of fabricated science by the oil companies and a long-term propaganda campaign ranging from full page advertisements and web pages to novels and the "know nothing" climate change deniers in the Senate, on talk radio and corporate financed "news" programs, [meta studies](#) today show that 97% of scientists who study climate change have been convinced by examination of the data that anthropogenic climate change is advancing rapidly.<sup>2</sup> The ruling class has had 50 years forewarning and has done nothing except accelerate the crisis. Today the ruling class sees no way out except to buffalo the masses with a new spin on bourgeois consciousness.

An escalating awareness of being lied to by the bourgeois authorities is driving a new generation of activists into the streets to demand action from world leaders. A massive coalition including hundreds of organizations has been assembled by and around Bill McKibben and 350.org, the NGO that he is a director of; and this coalition has

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### Editorial:

The talking heads of the bourgeois media, post-election, are telling us the identification of the Democratic Party with the Obama administration cost them this midterm election, the most expensive in history. More than half of the \$4 Billion the two parties spent came from secret donors, a naked corruption practice nowadays legalized. Beltway wits have said the big winner was Hillary Clinton, about whom the brand of leftists who never learn anything are waxing poetic on the '60's and SDS Facebook page. The big loser is the Trumka leadership of the AFL-CIO. By the time you read this the two-party "honeymoon" spin will already be history and the Trumka leadership will be scrambling to counter the Tea Party effort to impeach Obama. Meanwhile we can say that the triumph of the corporatists that began with the election of Obama himself is now almost completed.

Every stripe of liberalism, reformism and not a few of the centrist left were taken in by Obama in 2008 and have been hard put to explain how the Democratic party never controlled the lawmaking agenda, even permitting the Tea Party to shut the Federal government down, with the resulting loss of the U.S. top credit rating, and with it the value of your savings. The reason, as we have said continually, is that the "two" parties have no differences on economic, human rights or military objectives. They represent the secret donors and only seek your votes for "consent of the governed" camouflage. It is remarkable, then, to see how oblivious the reformist and centrist left is and how they have doubled down on what they see as great new electoral possibilities. We will treat this below after discussing matters of actual weight for OUR social class, the workers and the oppressed.

In the mid-August we wrote "[Mid-August, 2014 Conjunctural Theses on the Class Struggle: From Palestine to Ferguson](#)," and we recommend them to you, as events have borne out our predictions and conclusions. We also produced the Class War supplement, "[Climate Change: The Workers Revolutionary Socialist Solution or a Class Peace Planetary Suicide Pact?](#)" distributing this to many marchers on September 21st and featured in this issue, as well as two

eight-page supplements in October, "[U.S. Imperialists Out of Iraq, the Middle East and North Africa! For Workers Struggle to Defeat Imperialism in the Near East!](#)" and "[For Labor, Black and Brown Defense Against Racist Police Terror](#)," and our latest contribution on the collision of the two imperialist blocs, "[BRICS around the neck of the proletariat](#)."

Our feet have been seen on the street all the while we wrote these pieces and more. We have protested Israel's genocidal war on Gaza and Palestine, we picketed El Sisi's visit to the U.N. alongside Egyptian youth and denounced the mass incarceration of his opponents. We several times demonstrated our solidarity with the revolutionists of Kobane and the social structures they have employed in democratic self-government and self-defense. We have taken part in Block the Boat and in demonstrations in solidarity with this politically proletarian form and expression of the Boycott, Divest and Sanctions movement and we have demonstrated against the militarization of the police, both in protests of the attack on Black America that is ongoing in Ferguson, Missouri, and the planned expansion of local jails in Iowa (at the expense of services to the elderly!) Each of us has continued our trade union militancy and our contact and discussions with our international co-thinkers.

Thus we are keeping tabs on dozens of struggles and the outrages that make them boil over into actions by the masses, while we continue to defend the increasing numbers of class war prisoners, without regard for the tendencies they may range themselves with today, and we will publicize some important cases in this issue. We will continue to organize in the spirit of our departed Comrade and Sister Lucy Ruser of the Executive Committee of the Revolutionary Workers Group (Zimbabwe,) who passed away in November. Comrade Ruser, Presente! Her memory and example will be present with us in every rally, strike and action!

...

Two main agreements exist between the U.S.-led imperialist bloc and the China/Russia-led bloc, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, which in turn stands at the helm of the increasingly profound alliance

of the BRICS nations. One agreement is temporary and local. This is the Ukrainian gas deal, which means western Europe will not freeze to death this winter on account of the fascist democrats in Kiev. The other is more overarching and general. The two imperialist blocs are agreed on a program of counterrevolution, mainly, but not exclusively directed against the Arab national revolution. So we see Obama-inspired EU sanctions against Russia expiring, having had much more negative effects on the agricultural sectors of the Mediterranean countries and even causing them new economic crises on top of the old, and all this together actually weakening the bonds of NATO and the EU right when the head of the IMF is under investigation and Britain is refusing to pay its EU taxes. But against the Arab revolution's frontline fighters in Syria the two blocs are agreed to support in reality, if not both in name, the interests of the west's arch enemy of only yesterday, Iran. The person on the street in the U.S. has been led to believe the U.S. is backing the "moderate opposition" to Syria's Assad. In fact the U.S. is bombing them while the press focused for a cycle on Kobane and now torches the public's imagination with the epidemic that isn't, Ebola.

Everyone paying attention to Africans and Africa has known about Ebola since it appeared as a health problem in the 1970's. As many times as the imperialist drug giants experimented on Africans in the last 40 years, they developed no treatment for Ebola, and didn't even start searching for one until this year's larger outbreak, with profits on their horizon. Ebola has been pumped up into a great geyser of hysteria in the U.S., right before the contest of campaign funds. What it masks is the transfer of another 4,000 U.S. troops to western Africa, and to whatever degree they are exposed to the disease they will do their quarantine time in the U.S. colony of Puerto Rico, where there is as yet no health emergency preparation. This was exposed by the Malcolm X Grassroots Movement, whose spokesperson at a recent Brooklyn College panel on Israel's Worldwide Role in Repression highlighted the enormous difference in responses to the cases of the infection of one white nurse and one white doctor with this banal, casual racist practice, placing the entire Puerto Rican nation at health risk. We oppose the U.S. military invasion in the name of humanitarian aid. Workers and oppressed must demand billions for doctors nurses, health workers and adjuncts, billions for logistical health facilities, food and sanitation aid to be controlled by labor and local community assemblies and not under imperialist U.S./AFRICOM or U.N. military control.

If the economic spine of fascism is corporatism, as it was in Europe in the last century, then one of its requirements for confusing, disrupting and smashing the workers' movement is, what Mussolini called a "Strategy of Tension," fomenting continuous shocks to the public consciousness, reactionary appeals to the sensibilities of the



ruined petty bourgeoisie, hysterias, manias and newer and more sensational confusions. So in the obscenely expensive run up to this mid-term election you heard how disappointed the average Americans are and glimpses of poll numbers that told you nothing about what their disappointments are. Such as Ferguson, the jobless 'recovery' and the sub-living wage jobs that bosses are offering and the no future prospects of the young. Ebola helped the corporatists immensely.

Gone is all talk of the "Employee Free Choice Act," the Equal Rights Amendment and state "Comparable Worth" statutes and enforcement. Each of the activist movements and groundswells for these reforms were demobilized and atomized by the Democratic Party in power since the 2008 elections. Thus Obama's usefulness to Capital is nearly over. Soon all interference with the projects of Big Oil and fracking for methane will be trod underfoot. Larry Summers had already told Charlie Rose some time ago that American recovery would be built on becoming a net energy exporter. Right now Boehner has already warned Obama not to use executive power to effect any immigration reforms and not to slacken the pace of deportation of the unwanted brown populations. Expect "Obamacare" to go on the chopping block. It wasn't much of a benefit for anyone except the ledgers of insurance companies, some of whom nevertheless regarded it as interference in their increasing rates of profit from mugging the aging baby boom. This will be followed by new gerrymandering to further suppress the black and brown vote and then such cocaine spoons of Wall Street regulation as were contained in the Dodd-Frank Act will be abolished.

Such is the dogma of the 'laissez faire' Bonapartists of the incoming congress that the widely remarked economic bubbles apparent for the last year do not bother them. When they burst the only issue between the .1%'ers will be who favors another bailout with the resultant layoffs and impoverishment of more millions, and who is the "true free market capitalist" who believes the patent nonsense about the market always disposing better than man can propose, i.e., no bailouts (with the same resulting layoffs and impoverishment.) All the record of history means to them is that this was a belief they brought with them on the Mayflower. And of course a World War could solve those pesky employment problems for a while and re-divide the world markets back in U.S. bluebloods' favor. If they turn this planet into a dying hellhole in the process they can always make themselves a spa planet (don't laugh!) somewhere else to rule us from. Your tax dollars are already building the immense rocket.

Against all this suicidal madness we advance under the banner of the historical program of the workers' revolutionary movement and call for a new international, a world party of socialist revolution. It is only in formal logic that our banner looks to be in contradiction with our call for a fighting workers/Labor party. Such a party would be independent

in every way from the designs and interests of the capitalist bourgeoisie, and within this party's arena of ideas we will fight for the revolutionary, transitional program to the state of the workers and oppressed and their exclusive political power. Indeed, as Leon Trotsky said in 1938, we will not take responsibility for the possible program of the Labor party should it be reformist, but will fight everywhere for our own revolutionary program. It is important to underline this again in a year where reformists are ecstatically deluding themselves and some radicalizing workers with the possibilities of winning elections to public offices in the superstructural excrescence of the bourgeois state.

The CWG calls for running working class candidates on a full set of Transitional demands that raises class consciousness and mobilizes the workers and oppressed in struggle against the system of capitalism. A working class party will only be built in America through hard class struggle against Capital's Democratic Party, against the misleaders of the black community and bourgeois feminists, and against the pro-capitalist union bureaucracy.

...

Bourgeois pundits all agree that the U.S. economy is recovering and that is what the end of the Feds Quantitative Easing (printing money!) signals. This is spin. We are experiencing the situation where big corporations continue to rationalize through killer speedup and massive layoffs. The recovery spin takes no account of how the U.S. economy is a global system. So when 10,000 auto workers laid off in a year and not rehired in GM plants in Brazil, this is not only an index of the Brazilian, but also of the state of the U.S. economy. Similarly, no mention is made of the minimum wage employment at the new jobs the U.S. economy is said to have produced. Buried in the fine print you find that chiefly these are part-time jobs. Therefore when San Francisco raises the minimum wage to \$15, a sub-living wage even when fully employed, there is no cause for the ecstasy displayed by the liberals and reformist left. We call for jobs for all at union prevailing rate wages and full benefits. When Capital claims it can't employ everyone, then we demand they open their books and establish a 30 hour week for 40 hours pay to ensure that there are decent jobs for all.

In place of an actual recovery you have union postal jobs sacrificed to provide profits from the minimum wage employment at Staples and even Wal-Mart. We say that this is no recovery from a workers point of view. The relative decline of U.S. imperialism is papered over by the fact that the U.S. ruling class succeeded in putting the Greek, Italian, Spanish and Portuguese working classes on the rack of austerity to pay for the crisis of fictitious capital even while the U.S. taxpayer, principally the working class was put on the hook for bailouts to the tune of \$800 billion worth of worthless securities backed by the Federal Reserve. That the Federal Re-

serve now feels it has bought enough of these to have stabilized the U.S. market *is more a reflection of concerns about further deflating the value of the U.S. dollar than it is of any index of any real improvement in manufacturing output or the real value production economy generally.*

The [Commerce Department](#) reported that orders for durable goods fell 1.3 percent in September from the prior month. This follows an [18.3 percent decline](#) in August. Economists had predicted an increase. As [one economist](#) stated in response to the report, "*Core Capital Goods are non-defense capital goods excluding aircraft. It's a measure of business investment and business sentiment. The 1.7% decline in orders is the largest since January. Shipments factor into GDP estimates. Core capital goods shipments were down 0.2% this month. Core capital shipments and orders suggest that 4th quarter GDP is not off to a flying start*". On the quiet, the Federal Reserve is warning American banks that they are creating new bubbles in the economy with highly leveraged loans, loans lent with even fewer safeguard provisions than the loans that figured so prominently in the 2008 global financial crisis. So we expect no improvement. As we have said before, the government unemployment figures are fictions for the credulous and any month where 250,000 jobs are not produced is a net wash. Yahoo reports that 214,000 jobs were produced in October, even as the government claims the unemployment rate has fallen to 5.8%. We are reminded of Groucho Marx's line "Who are you going to believe? Me or your lying eyes?"

...

Among the many expressions of mass revolt against effects of the global financial crisis of capitalism the U.S. ruling class press and so-called mainstream media have fixated on the Hong Kong events of September and October. These get the most ink and air time thanks to *schadenfreude*, which is enjoying someone else's distress, in this case the distress of the Chinese Communist Party, the ruling party of imperialist China. You would not guess from the bourgeois news that the Hong Kong working class suffers outrageous crushing rents and pays luxury prices for their food and clothing. The little jewelry box that the West typically sees hides the Chinese reality of terrible exploitation and a great rise of class struggle and strikes that force Chinese capitalists to look overseas for even cheaper labor to employ with their surplus capital.

One reason you don't find this out is because of the Occupy model of protests that limited most actions to demanding the removal of the pro-Beijing mayor and fulfillment of the 1997 political independence provisions of the reunification with the mainland. Consequently, we see the same kind of results we saw with the Gezi revolt in Turkey last year. The ruling party has succeeded in stonewalling because there are no clear unifying demands and such demands as there are, are so



Johnson County Iowa's recently-obtained MRAP. It had previously been used by military troops in Kuwait. (Mark Carlson/The Gazette-KCRG)

surely as the capitalist bourgeoisie rules the U.S.A. “According to a [ProPublica analysis of federally collected data](#) on fatal police shootings, the 1,217 deadly police shootings from 2010 to 2012 captured in the federal data show that blacks, age 15 to 19, were killed at a rate of 31.17 per million, while just 1.47 per million white males in that age range died at the hands of police.”<sup>4</sup> Thus a black youth is 21.2 times as likely to be killed at the hands of the police as a white youth. For those who wonder what white privilege is and claim it does not exist, these numbers should provide a clue.

The use of force across all of history has always been an illustration of power relationships. Where power is money and poverty is powerlessness. Capitalism is incapable of resolving the [intergenerational poverty](#) afflicting oppressed black and brown and working class people. According to a groundbreaking study by researchers from Johns Hopkins University:

“The researchers found that of the nearly 800 children originally surveyed, only 33 moved from birth families in the low-income bracket to the high-income bracket as young adults. They found that the children who started out in the middle-class were more likely to move up.

In addition, race played a pivotal role: Forty-five percent of white men from low-income backgrounds ended up in well-paying trade jobs such as plumbing, or as factory workers, while only 15 percent of Black men found the same.”<sup>5</sup>

As a [Stanford article](#) also says:

“The wealth gap is the most acute indicator of

racial inequality. Based on data from the 2002 Survey of Income and Program Participation, white median household net worth is about \$90,000; in contrast it is only about \$8,000 for the median Latino household and a mere \$6,000 for the median black household. The median Latino or black household would have to save nearly 100 percent of its income for at least three consecutive years to close the gap. Furthermore, 85 percent of black and Latino households have a net worth below the median white household. Regardless of age, household structure, education, occupation, or income, black households typically have less than a quarter of the wealth of otherwise comparable white households.....

....For example, a recent report on mortgage lending and race by the Institute on Race and Poverty at the University of Minnesota found that black Twin City residents earning over \$150,000, in comparison to whites earning below \$40,000, were twice as likely to be denied a home loan. Those fortunate (or unfortunate) enough to get a loan were more than three times as likely to have a sub-prime loans....”<sup>6</sup>

Here we have the capitalist class's bankers substituting automatic racism for any consideration of credit-worthiness. The real crime of the housing bubble was that those long denied access to capital were scammed from the highest levels, from [Bush](#) and [Greenspan](#) on down.<sup>7</sup> Adjustable Rate Mortgages were peddled as the sure-fire path to first-time home ownership.

In fact, this was legalized robbery that threw millions onto the street, while at the same time the program permitted the bundling

of these loans as securities which the bond rating agencies pronounced “AAA,” and these securities’ basic worthlessness became the playthings of hedge fund speculators who tanked Wall Street and the broader economy for private gain. The result was a great and rapid increase in black unemployment and even the most rosy analysis shows there has been no improvement in black female employment since the 2008 stock market collapse. Both the racist denial of home loans and the racist indifference to consequences of the variable rate mortgage program are serious reasons to consider reparations to the black community, not out of the public treasury, but out of the treasure of Wall Street and the banks. And although the national dialogue spurns any talk of reparations for slavery and the very introduction of the subject quickly reveals deep seated hatred and fear, ***we call for immediate reparations to all those who lost their homes as victims of a conspiracy of the bankers and their class’ state.***

Instead of providing free quality education and medical care and jobs for all, the capitalists reign terror over populations whom they have marginalized out of the productive economy. The [NCES study](#) of high school graduation rates clearly shows that poverty and race impact the drop out rate, in an economy with few options even for the highly educated.<sup>8</sup> The options of the millions who have been “left behind” in the “race for the top” are minimal, as they are the fodder for the school-to-prison pipeline, one of the few highly profitable growth industries and places where high school graduates can get a salaried job as the jailers of over two million prisoners, who mostly come from among the 46 million living in poverty. This is a poverty not of their own making. The [empirical data](#) shows that these millions are born into families in an economic twenty percent (quintile) whom capitalism has condemned to poverty for generations. The empirical data only addresses incomes and doesn’t show a community that never had sports or arts programs in the local schools. It doesn’t list parks and libraries that never have been built. And it doesn’t address environmental racism or the bourgeois city fathers’ terminating the water supply, as in Detroit.

The skin color privilege-based fears of the ‘other,’ the black and brown and immigrant, compounds the fear of economic insecurity, and both serve to divide the working class for the benefit of Capital. And thus in the class society, whether you’re a high school kid in Raleigh-Durham or Prof. Henry Gates at Harvard, the [hard working Black person](#) is assumed by police to be breaking and entering their own homes.<sup>9</sup> The hard working white person may encounter the police in a speed trap. Consider this traffic stop of an [unarmed black man](#) being shot at the gas station and this video of a [father being tasered](#) while picking



up his kids at their school.<sup>10</sup> Amadou Diallo was shot for holding up his cell phone. In St. Louis [VonDerrit Myers](#) was shot on October 8th holding a sandwich; the community has no reason to believe the police version, and neither do we, which in the meantime has [already changed](#).<sup>11</sup>

The working class in America will be incapable of uniting and making significant gains unless they come to the defense of the black, brown and immigrant communities. Karl Marx wrote of chattel slavery “*Labour cannot emancipate itself in the white skin where in the black it is branded.*” This is true today, where blacks face vicious de facto segregation, despite the promises of the liberal civil rights movement, which won formal democratic rights for blacks, but was unable to confront the material basis of black oppression and the de facto segregation in society, which has its roots in American capitalism.

Even though not completely analogous, since unlike the Irish, blacks in America are not an oppressed nation, but very much Americans, Marx wrote of the British and Irish working class:

*“And most important of all! Every industrial and commercial centre in England now possesses a working class divided into two hostile camps, English proletarians and Irish proletarians. The ordinary English worker hates the Irish worker as a competitor who lowers his standard of life. In relation to the Irish worker he regards himself as a member of the ruling nation and consequently he becomes a tool of the English aristocrats and capitalists against Ireland, thus strengthening their domination over himself. He cherishes religious, social, and national prejudices against the Irish worker. His attitude towards him is much the same as that of the “poor whites” to the Negroes in the former slave states of the U.S.A. The Irishman pays him back with interest in his own money. He sees in the English worker both the accomplice and the stupid tool of the English rulers in Ireland. **This antagonism is artificially kept alive and intensified by the press, the pulpit, the comic papers, in short, by all the means at the disposal of the ruling classes. This antagonism is the secret of the impotence of the English working class, despite its organisation. It is the secret by which the capitalist class maintains its power. And the latter is quite aware of this.**” (emphasis added, [Letter: Marx to Sigfrid Meyer and August Vogt In New York, 1870](#))<sup>12</sup>*

Black liberation in America is integrally tied to the fight of the working class to abolish capitalism. And conversely, the multi-racial American working class will not make significant gains unless it rises to the defense of black, brown and immigrant rights.



*Minneapolis Teamsters Local 544's Union Defense Guard*

### **Police Are Racist Terrorists and Strikebreakers**

As Russian revolutionary socialist Leon Trotsky wrote in 1932, about the ranks of the police drawn from the working class, “*The fact that the police was originally recruited in large numbers from among Social Democratic workers is absolutely meaningless. Consciousness is determined by environment even in this instance. The worker who becomes a policeman in the service of the capitalist state is a bourgeois cop, not a worker.*” ([What Next? Vital Questions for the German Proletariat, January 1932](#))<sup>13</sup>

Yet many on the left ignore this lesson and work to thereby ruin the development of class political consciousness of the masses. Foremost today is Sawant's Socialist Alternative/Committee for a Workers International (Soc Alt/CWI), who maintain the police are ‘workers in uniform’ who are somewhat misguided and contain some bad apples. Thus it becomes possible for city council member Sawant to take part in the selection process for a new Seattle Police Commissioner. For working class political prisoners this is like choosing the military police who will be your firing squad. (Shades of Scheidemann!)

The labor movement has organized cops and prison guards into “unions”, particularly AFSCME (American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees). When these cop “unions” demand or strike for better pay and working conditions, they are striking for their “rights” to racist and anti-working class violence and to make more money doing it. During times of struggle, the cops can, will and do enforce the bosses’ laws, including anti-union, strikebreaking laws, such as Taft-Hartley. **Class struggle militants within the labor movement should organize a struggle to drive the cops and prison guards from the unions and labor federations.**

The police forces are the core of the capitalist state and are institutions for the defense of

capitalist social relations. The public power of the state includes prisons, courts, and educational system, and as Engels wrote “institutions of coercion of all kinds,” (fundamentally the police and army). The police are strikebreakers and racist terrorists who stand above society and whose main job is defense of capitalist property relations.

The 2011 West Coast Longview EGT ILWU Longshore struggle saw virtually their entire union local membership arrested. Union members and supporters faced police harassment and intimidation on the streets as the port bosses tried to break the struggle. This was no anomaly. The Longshoremen in Longview engaged in class struggle tactics not seen in years in the American labor movement. Any serious labor struggle will be met with police violence. In 1937, ten unarmed strikers in Chicago were gunned down, mostly shot in the back, by the cops in the infamous [Little Steel Memorial Day Massacre](#).<sup>14</sup> In 2012, 44 South African Lonmin miners at [Marikana](#) were brutally gunned down by the ANC government police.<sup>15</sup> Capitalism in crisis means workers and the oppressed are literally paying in blood. If the black and brown communities are on the front line of police terror today, a resurgent multi-racial working class will be in the cop crosshairs tomorrow.

As Farrell Dobbs, a leader of the famous [1934 Minneapolis Teamsters Strike](#) wrote:

*“Under capitalism the main police function is to break strikes and to repress other forms of protest against the policies of the ruling class. Any civic usefulness other forms of police activity may have, like controlling traffic and summoning ambulances, is strictly incidental to the primary repressive function. Personal inclinations of individual cops do not alter this basic role of the police. All must comply with ruling-class dictates. As a result, police repression becomes one of the most naked forms through which capitalism subordinates human rights to the demands of private property. If the cops sometimes falter*

*Cont. from pg. 5 There is no justice..*

*in their antisocial tasks, it is simply because they—like the guns they use—are subject to rust when not engaged in the deadly function for which they are primarily trained.”<sup>16</sup>*

### **The Left, Labor, and the Democratic Party of an Increasingly Bonapartist State**

There is a whole syphilitic political chain from the Democratic Party into the AFL-CIO/Change to Win Labor Federations, the State Feds, the Central Labor Councils and the union locals. These Democratic Party union leaders bring the ruling class ideology into the workers movement, tying the workers to the bosses and the dead-end of electoral politics

The inner cities and Barrios are hell-holes for the oppressed black and brown masses, lorded over by largely Democratic Party administrations, who unleashed the police on largely white Occupy youth during those demonstrations, and who daily unleash them on the black and brown communities. Obama has well-earned the title “Deporter-in-Chief” with his record-setting [attacks and deportations of immigrant workers](#).<sup>17</sup> *The ruling class’ answer to capitalist decay is more police, more prisons and jails, more NSA spying, more repressive laws, and militarized police in an increasingly Bonapartist state.*

The Left in America is largely tied to the Democratic Party in some way, shape or form. They are very careful about stepping outside the boundaries of liberal reformism. So rather than raising the historic organizational forms, political demands and political program of the workers movement and the oppressed, they fall back on patchwork electoral reforms in the vain idealistic hope that somehow, someday capitalism can be made into a just and humane system. In contrast, Trotskyists seek to build a class conscious fighting workers movement linked to the oppressed communities based on the historic workers’ program that attacks the material basis of oppression and exploitation, which is the wage system. Any serious reforms will be won as the byproduct of revolutionary class struggle against capitalism.

The fight for reforms, even the most minimal reforms, needs to be linked to the struggle against the capitalist system itself, to the historic demands and organizations of the working class and oppressed. Immediate reforms always very quickly come up against the limitations for such reforms under capitalism. In this period, the general crisis of capitalism and the decline of the U.S. Empire, the fight for reforms, even the most minimal

reforms requires combating the underlying system of capitalism, its twin political parties and requires militant methods of class struggle. Class political consciousness and the forms of self-organization that it produces are required if workers are ever to break away and forge ahead from catch-up, strictly economist, losing wage battles.

Socialists join in the fight for every immediate reform, but we explain that reforms that workers win today are immediately subject to attack by the bosses. This is what the ruling classes are doing right now with a vengeance, as capitalism suffers from its greatest crisis in decades and the capitalists roll back decades of social gains. Making their system work, restoring their rate of profit, calls for taking this profit from our very flesh and bones. The ruling class understands very well what they need to do to survive as a social class. *Either the multi-racial working class will realize what it needs to do to survive as a social class, and will organize and mobilize around a workers’ program or they will face destitution, state terror, environmental barbarism and endless war.*



*Black Community Members Square off against the Cops in Ferguson*

Almost seven years into the worst capitalist economic crisis since the Great Depression, with the working class and the oppressed under massive attack, the Left and the labor-fakers in America are still largely peddling the Democratic Party and limiting political program to the same liberal reforms, creating illusions in capitalism, rather than putting forth a fighting workers/labor party with the Transitional program which fights for a workers’ government.

### **The Historic Fight Against Racist Police Terror and the Defense of the Working Class**

The most advanced layers of the left and workers movement have called not only for reforms of the system in the face of racist police terror and strike-breaking, but have organized in self-defense. Rather than relying on the capitalist state, the masses have relied

on their own self-organization, solidarity, militancy and leadership. The [Black Panther Party](#), the [Deacons for Defense and Justice](#), and [Robert F. Williams](#) all recognized the need to organize armed self-defense in the face of racist terror.<sup>18</sup> Unfortunately for the Panthers and Williams, they did not recognize the workers movement as the key. Isolated from the multi-racial organized working class, with limited social power, they faced murderous state repression.

During the 1930’s, the Minneapolis Teamsters, under the leadership of Trotskyists, organized workers’ defense guards and pickets and drove the cops and anti-union strikebreakers from the streets of Minneapolis in the famous [Battle of Deputy Run](#).<sup>19</sup> The Minneapolis strikes were a key moment in the history of American labor and the Teamsters went on to organize workers’ self-defense guards to also drive the fascist Silver Shirts out of the Twin Cities. The power of organized labor was also shown during the 1982 Anti-Klan Labor/Black mobilization in Washington, DC that stopped the Klan. Unlike Occupy, where petty-bourgeois youth, lacking social power, were attacked by the cops, the cops were more restrained as organized contingents of largely black trade-unionists mobilized (i.e., Nat Turner Brigade, John Brown Brigade), particularly from the powerful ILA Longshore union, which has the power to shut down ports on the East and Gulf coasts.

At a public forum in 2012, longtime ILWU class struggle militant [Jack Heyman](#) spoke on the necessity for Labor defense :

*“...Mandela said, ‘if the present government does to you what the Apartheid government did to you then you must do to them what you did to the Apartheid government.’ The ILWU is known for taking stands on racial justice in this country as well...there was a Black family that moved into a previously all-white neighborhood in El Sobrante. The neighbors burnt crosses on the yard, broke windows, terrorized the family. We in the Longshore union established armed defense guards. Armed defense guards, to protect the family, and we let the racists know that we were intent on making sure this family lives in that neighborhood safely like everybody else. And the racists stopped their actions and the family living in that community without harm to them. That is the way to fight back against police brutality...It is up to us to arm ourselves, to defend ourselves against police brutality.”<sup>20</sup>*

Following the COINTELPRO program of mass spying and murder directed against black, brown and working class activists of



all colors, American leftists backed away from organizing armed self-defense on a broad and regular basis. Indeed Hoover's campaign of blood against the Black Panther Party, The Brown Berets, the American Indian Movement and later against [MOVE](#) which was bombed by the Philly Police,<sup>21</sup> put fear in the movement and advocates of self-defense retreated, while the war against the poor was camouflaged as a War On Drugs and sold to the American TV-watching public as justified on reality shows like "COPS" and in depictions of the "Thug Life" in HBO shows like "The Wire."

After producing the 2012 report Operation Ghetto Storm, the Malcolm X Grassroots Movement (MXGM) alongside other Black Nationalist organizations (The Black Riders in Oakland, the New Black Panther Party, etc.) have again made the claim that "Our survival is dependent on Self Defense!"

The [MXGM movement](#) argues for popular assemblies to develop the peoples program for self-defense and mutual aid:

*"New Afrikan or Black Self-Defense Networks are alliances, coalitions, or united fronts of Black organizations whose purpose is to defend the New Afrikan or Black community from external (the police, FBI, white terrorist organizations, etc.) and internal (agent infiltration, intra-communal violence, etc.) threats to its safety and security."*<sup>22</sup>

This is a statement of what unfolds, or has the potential to unfold when the community becomes conscious and active. That in every urban and suburban community there is a potential for networks of rational-minded and stalwart individuals to come together to face the unfolding crisis. Just as in the past, the socially necessary organizations come together in their various local manifestations: clubs, churches, gyms, unions, and various enthusiast groups. During crisis they will come out of the immediacy of necessity (as in Ferguson) and they will, as is natural, form up into self-defense guards of the community. ***This cannot happen by accident. This requires conscious intervention by vanguard elements who first recognize their necessity and see the project through.*** Squads will be formed up and action will be taken; these squads will lead and defend the people while squaring off against the police and racist terror. The intelligence and capabilities of these squads will increase exponentially as they are integrated, regularized and made field-ready. This is striking terror in the heart of the ruling class and their millions of lackeys. This is why they are bringing the war on terror home.



Courtesy of Johnson Family

Oscar Grant

***Labor must not allow Black and Brown self-defenders to stand alone!***

The black, brown and oppressed communities see the regular and unending assaults and murders by police as being primarily race-based. Enforcement of perpetual poverty requires a cop culture that is infused with class, sex and racial bias. That bias is expressed both in fear and in rage, either consciously or unconsciously but most definitively brutal and extrajudicial, every 28 hours.

It is mostly because the organized workers movement, in particular the AFL-CIO and Change to Win top officials and their national, state and local labor councils have not mobilized the workers to stop police and state terror against the black and brown communities that the communities feel abandoned by labor and develop nation-based rather than class-based perspectives. These communities look to their own race, having been isolated from the organizational forces of labor which have the organizational potential to mobilize the workers nationwide to take the actions needed to end police terror. Because the workers movement does not champion and defend the most oppressed communities, another class pole and orientation takes hold and offers its solutions. That ideological pole is Black Nationalism. Revolutionary workers see the limitations of Black Nationalism, its class contradictions and the kernel of revolutionary potential it contains when it organizes the communities for self-defense. In the black community, nationalist ideology has sometimes made strides embracing anti-capitalism and avoiding national and ethnic isolation, but the cross-class orientation still limits such movements like the MXGM's contradictory and populist program. Other avowed Black Nationalists are dedicated to capitalism and entrepreneurialism, and thus

to reform. We are not doing a retrospective on Black Nationalism here, rather we are looking at the crisis of police terror and how the leadership of the working class and the reform wing of the black movement, both tied to the Democrats, act in consort to defuse the episodic and regular rebellions which emerge after the most brutal and publicized racist executions are exposed.

This is the existential crisis of the American labor movement in a nutshell. To the extent that official labor cherishes, organizes, defends and feasts with the police and prison guards' unions, they ignore and acquiesce in the campaign of terror against the most oppressed peoples. Only to the extent that the oppressed communities can see beyond the leaders of the movement and into its broader potential will they see a real class alliance as historically required. But because the racist enforcers are embraced by labor, the entire race divide among workers is reinforced, accentuated and becomes the dominant basis for ideologies (false consciousness), racism and its pragmatic cross-class racialized response, "Black Nationalism." Both of these divide the working class and prevent the formation of the revolutionary workers party, and thus serve (unintentionally, but serve nonetheless) to keep the 0.1% enthroned atop their hoards of wealth.

The [MXGM movement](#) obviously learned from the isolation and subsequent degrading and destruction of the Black Panthers by the racist capitalist state. They see that the Black Self-Defense cannot stand alone, so they have a role for the People's Self Defense Networks. And they go so far as to say that security can only be achieved by defending against the forces of white supremacy and capitalist exploitation:

*"People's Self-Defense Networks are multi-national (or multi-ethnic and/or racial) alliances, coalitions, or united fronts whose purpose is to defend their communities against mutual enemies and threats and advance a common agenda based on shared interests, hopes, and aspirations.*

*Oppressed peoples and communities can and will only be secure in this country when they are organized to defend themselves against the aggressions of the government and the forces of white supremacy and capitalist exploitation."*<sup>23</sup>

As a message, this is good as far as it goes. But the limits of nationalism harken back to the warnings by Lenin about the term 'peoples'...as opposed to workers. When the oppressed see their liberation as part of the anti-capitalist struggle of the entire multi-racial working class they will change their language and the black capitalists

*Cont. from pg. 7 There is no justice..*

and reformers will be left upholding the language of the peoples front, while in the neighborhoods and in industries their peoples front projects will be eclipsed by **workers united fronts**. The MXGM movement sees 'peoples', not classes, because the workers movement is not showing up. And in turn our objection to nationalism is not so much a fight against those who see the nationalism of the oppressed as their only road forward but against the leadership of the workers organization's who stop the working class from building the multi-racial, anti-capitalist class struggle campaign to crush state terror.

Except in the rare and exemplary cases such as the [ILWU Local 10](#) political strikes for Justice for Oscar Grant and to Free [Mumia Abu Jamal](#),<sup>24</sup> we have not seen organized labor take the organizational or political lead to initiate strikes or self-defense guards that would give hope and a class-based orientation for the oppressed to build their organizations upon. When political strikes by labor become the answer to police terror, inter-racial, multi-ethnic, workers self-defense guards will emerge and surpass the utility of isolated Black Self-Defense. Emergent self-defense in the oppressed communities has the potential to be the embryonic form of workers self-defense, and popular assemblies have the potential to become workers assemblies. To the extent that they maintain this potential and contradictory nature, revolutionary workers participate in and advocate for these organizations to develop class independence, programmatically and organizationally breaking from the parties of the capitalists; support which is the repetitive sin of the present-day leaderships of the movements of the workers and oppressed. To be taken seriously by the communities of the oppressed, not only must labor break from the capitalist parties, but they must expel the police and prison guards from the ranks of labor.

Then the assemblies would be free to forge their own program and workers party that fights for a workers government. One that enforces the transitional program to end capitalist exploitation and its various ideological tools: white supremacy, racism, misogyny, homophobia and the nationalism of the oppressors.

**An injury to one is an injury to all!  
Defend Ferguson protesters!**

**Drop all charges and for the immediate release of all Ferguson protesters! For organized trade union contingents to Ferguson to demand justice for Michael Brown!**

**Down with the militarization of the police! No stop and frisk! Defeat racial profiling!**

**Down with La Migra and police attacks on immigrants! For immediate full citizenship rights for all immigrants**

**No faith in the bosses' courts! We need our own institutions to gain justice!**

**Turn the meetings and mobilizations into organizing meetings for Labor, Black and Brown self-defense guards and tribunals! Form up multi-racial Labor, Black and Brown self-defense guards to defend against racist police and vigilante terror!**

**For workers' tribunals to bring murdering racist cops and vigilantes to justice! Build Labor, Black and Brown political strike actions to bring these criminals to justice!**

*Cont. from pg. 1 Climate March..*



planned the massive demonstration taking place in NYC on September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2014 and in many cities around the country and the world. [Guy McPherson](#), author and Professor Emeritus of Natural Resources and Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, denounces McKibben as the wrong kind of green and says that he refuses to acknowledge the correct conclusions from the scientific fact that that the planet has long since passed the 350 part per million CO2 concentration in the atmosphere and that we are heading for human extinction.<sup>3</sup> Revolutionary socialists tell the workers the truth without decoration. We are staring at the question of species survival squarely and tell workers the solution to the climate change problem and consequences of global warming must involve the worker masses organized as a

class and the solution can only be achieved via the socialist revolution. McKibben never mentions revolution. He tells the masses to just make more noise, hold larger demos, get arrested in larger numbers and we can make the bosses solve the climate change problem. Nowhere does McKibben say that the capitalists are the arch-criminals who have brought humanity to this impasse.

Long term advocates of mass action aimed at abating climate change are doing everything they can to turn out the foot-soldiers in hopes of creating a pivot moment akin to the 1983 anti-nuclear weapons demonstration led by Dr. Helen Caldicott, which the media today lauds for bringing Reagan and Gorbachev to Reykjavik. The result of which was the turning of the nuclear [doomsday clock](#) back from 3 minutes to midnight then, to 5 minutes before midnight today.<sup>4</sup> Despite the massive--and yet to be repeated--outpouring of a million plus people in NYC in 1983, the nuclear threat today, [Caldicott warns](#), "...is much greater than before."<sup>5</sup> Likewise, regardless of how many millions take to the street behind the bourgeois approved leadership of 350.org, the [World Meteorological Association](#) today warns that "...the global annual average CO2 concentration is set to cross the symbolic 400 parts per million threshold in 2015 or 2016."<sup>6</sup> We have learned that the world's oceans are already losing their ability to absorb increasing levels of CO2 and consequently the oceans are [becoming acidified](#), threatening all manner of ocean-borne species.<sup>7</sup>

Socialists know that mass action can change the course of history. Mass and direct actions can be used by the working class, the oppressed and their allies to advance progressive solutions and assert the historic program of the working class, which today means overthrow capitalism and institute a rational, democratically planned economy to combat climate change and remediate environmental devastation. We also know that mass actions can and have been used by ruling class representatives of capitalism to corral and restrain the masses and limit their efforts to ineffectual pleadings to the bosses' politicians *for them* to regulate aspects of industry and the economy. neither of which they will do in any effectual fashion under the dictatorship of capital; nor is there any political will for such change. The open secret is that 350.org et. al. have no real plan and have no political program to counterpose to the workers' revolutionary socialist program, and this is why there are no demands and there will be no platform and no speakers at the September 21<sup>st</sup> event.

The massive actions planned for September 21<sup>st</sup> have the potential to go one way or the other. The masses can break the confines of liberalism and launch the workers



Cont. from pg. 8 Climate March..

revolutionary struggle to salvage the environment or they can be snookered back into ineffective bourgeois electoral delusions, part and parcel of the false bill of goods peddled by the NGO servants of big Capital.

### McKibben and NGOs: Serving the Interests of Capital

The ruling class can no longer rely on the fake science fabricated by Exxon, Chevron, and BP or their loudmouths of hate radio like Rush Limbaugh to keep the cork in the bottle and the people in their slumbers. So they have a new tack, following the “green washing” of industry they have found it necessary to “green wash” capitalism and have employed numerous NGOs to assure that the masses, their organizations and labor in particular do not get the wrong idea and try to overthrow the system in order to reign in global warming. [350.org/1Sky](http://350.org/1Sky) the NGO led by McKibben is tasked with this flimflam project by Warren Buffet, George Soros, Bill and Melinda Gates, the Clintons, Bloomberg, the Ford Foundation, and the Rockefeller Foundation, et. al.<sup>8</sup> The link to and funding from the biggest capitalists in the world has been traced through [funding](#), [personal](#), the goals and [projects](#) and the non-existent [demands](#) of the mass demonstration.<sup>9</sup> The lack of demands uniting the action leaves the program in the hands of [350.org/1Sky](http://350.org/1Sky), and their advocacy is dependent on the triad of patriotic pride (American ingenuity), responsibility and accountability. All this is couched in an overriding faith in the ability of capitalist businesses to create and implement clean energy solutions.

[McKibben states it very well](#) himself in explicitly advocating “organizing” Wall Street as a vehicle for social (non) change (*emphasis ours*):<sup>10</sup>

*“The financial community has begun to question the long-term value of fossil fuel stocks. Institutions with large endowments, such as Stanford University, have begun the process of divesting some of their holdings in coal companies; as analysts have pointed out, should the world ever do something about climate change, many of the reserves on which those companies base their worth would have to be left below ground. “This is one of the fastest-moving debates I think I’ve seen in my thirty years in markets,” Kevin Bourne, a managing director of the Financial Times Stock Exchange, told the Financial Times this spring, on the day that Blackrock, the world’s largest asset manager, launched a fossil-free index fund. Clearly, however, it will take a stronger*

*and noisier movement than we’ve seen heretofore—and a global one—to push the players toward actions at all commensurate with the danger.”*

Pacifists in the environmental movement refuse to raise, and class peace salesmen refuse to acknowledge, the contradictory interests of the two antagonistic social classes, Labor and Capital, and they also refuse to raise any demands. So we have before us the prospect of Ban Ki Moon’s climate summit where imperialists and other bourgeois leaders express their wishes for climate change remedies and where two miles and 48 hours away the class peace rally expresses the same wishes as the bankers and corporate executives of the [Climate Group](#) by misdirection or default.<sup>11</sup>

[Popular Resistance](#) writes:

*“A lack of clear justice-based and ecologically sound demands in this march will leave a vacuum. And no vacuum remains empty for long. It’s simple physics. The Climate Group has already set up shop in that space. The problem is not just these really creepy bedfellows: The media will not cover a march with no demands. They will find a message, and if it’s not The Climate Group’s ‘business will save the planet’ message, what will it be?”<sup>12</sup>*

This week you had the Senators voting on Citizens United. They were talking about a constitutional amendment that if the Supreme Court would let pass would eliminate the equivalency of money and speech. You would think that in the wake of Occupy that we would hear some echo of this in the Peoples Climate March, but there is nothing coming from the Peoples Climate March that is hostile to corporations. McKibben has taken environmental activists for a ride.

The great anti-corporatist upsurge that was Occupy finds no expression in this march. Occupy may be there but Occupy will be towing McKibben’s class peace line. You would think that in this synchronicity Occupy would go after corporatism but you don’t see any of it on the 21st. The non-leadership of Occupy apparently sensed this default and on September 12<sup>th</sup> announced an “anti-capitalist” civil disobedience on the steps of the New York Stock Exchange for September 22<sup>nd</sup>. For us, the only real political difference between McKibben’s strategy and that of Occupy is that McKibben organizes celebrities for catch-and-release arrests, whereas the NYPD arranges for Occupy arrestees to languish on Ryker’s Island. And the late announcement of the Occupy action virtually guarantees that the arrests will be confined to petty-bourgeois, habitual civil disobedience arrestees. Consequently what workers see is a left that has been bamboozled

into a monomania about a Keystone pipeline which Wall Street does not give a damn about and for which Buffet (McKibben’s financial backer and puppet master) has made other transportation plans via his [Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railroads](#).<sup>13</sup>

### Left and “Socialists” Jump on Popular Front Bandwagon: Playing their Reformist Role in Paving the Way to Environmental Destruction

A popular front is a political coalition that requires agreement on a common program between the working-class and non-working-class parties. However the non-working class parties cannot agree to the revolutionary workers program to solve the crisis without ceasing to be what they are. So the workers, through their parties and organizations, give up their independent political program, their class aims and their class independence in the interest of preserving “unity” with the enemy class forces. ***The popular front is revealed thus as irrevocably non-working class and anti-working class.***

As Leon Trotsky, leader of the Russian Revolution, wrote in 1936 during capitalism’s last Great Depression:

*“The question of questions at present is the People’s Front. The left centrists seek to present this question as a tactical or even as a technical maneuver, so as to be able to peddle their wares in the shadow of the People’s Front. In reality, the People’s Front is the main question of proletarian class strategy for this epoch. It also offers the best criterion for the difference between Bolshevism and Menshevism. For it is often forgotten that the greatest historical example of the People’s Front is the February 1917 revolution. From February to October, the Mensheviks and Social Revolutionaries, who represent a very good parallel to the ‘Communists’ and Social Democrats, were in the closest alliance and in a permanent coalition with the bourgeois party of the Cadets, together with whom they formed a series of coalition governments. Under the sign of this People’s Front stood the whole mass of the people, including the workers’, peasants’, and soldiers’ councils. To be sure, the Bolsheviks participated in the councils. But they did not make the slightest concession to the People’s Front. Their demand was to break this People’s Front, to destroy the alliance with the Cadets, and to create a genuine workers’ and peasants’ government.”*  
—Leon Trotsky, “The Dutch Section and the International” (15-16 July 1936), *Writings of Leon Trotsky*

Cont. pg. 10

Cont. from pg. 9 Climate March...

These NGOs have created a massive popular front called the “Peoples Climate March” in which no social class, only “people” and their [various organizations](#) are purportedly united for a common cause, a cause which has yet to be established with demands or points of unity.<sup>14</sup> This united action gathers Democratic politicians and Democratic Party outfits like Move-On.org with dozens of NGOs, dozens more ethical and religious organizations, various pro-capitalist State Green Parties and even the Green Zionist Alliance. These forces are joined by most of the major “socialist” organizations including the Social Democrats in the Socialist Party USA and the Democratic Socialists of America, the neo-Stalinist Committees of Correspondence, the actual Stalinists of the Communist Party USA, the Pan Africanists of the All-African People’s Revolutionary Party, the third camp International Socialist Organization, the fake Trotskyists of Socialist Action, Solidarity (the two U.Sec. organizations), Socialist Alternative, Socialist Viewpoint, World Can’t Wait Coalition and Radical Women.

All have endorsed the popular front along with a dozen or so self-proclaimed anarchist collectives. This includes the IWW Environmental Caucus, who actively promote and stand in solidarity with the NYC Rally, yet who leave a door open to slither out of taking political responsibility for it by not officially endorsing the NYC rally, instead endorsing the West Coast People’s Climate Rally. The West Coast rally is in Oakland, gathering at Lake Merritt *in solidarity* with the NYC action where a smattering of union locals have signed on and are expected to turn out contingents of workers.<sup>15</sup>

The [IWW Environmental Caucus](#) is raising the following classless (which means bourgeois reformist) demands for the West Coast rally:<sup>16</sup>

- *For a world with an economy that works for people and the planet*
- *For a world safe from the ravages of climate change*
- *For a world with good jobs, clean air, water and healthy communities*

Great! Close your eyes, click your heels together and make a wish! This is idealism, far divorced from a working class program based on struggle that abolishes capitalism which is desperately needed. Politically, the West Coast rally is *also a popular front*, with the IWW and other leftist organizations acting as the radical wing who provide political cover for the popular front politics of an (ain’t never gonna happen) kinder, greener capitalism. So workers are presented with either no program (actually a hidden

one of bourgeois politics) in NYC or a fake program on the West Coast.

For their part, the Bay Area Transport Workers Solidarity Committee (TWSC) has yet to take an official position on the NYC or West Coast popular front rallies. Climate change is very much an issue for transport workers. The ruling class has two options to transport the Tar Sands oil to refineries: one is the Keystone Pipeline and the other is via rail car. Both of these means involve workers and effect ironworkers, pipeline and transportation and refinery workers. Abstention on key political issues is at best just confusing workers who look to the TWSC for leadership and guidance. At worst, by their silence, they are the shadow of the popular front.

Railroad workers who are members of [Doro-Chiba \(National Railway Chiba Motive Power Union-Japan\)](#) have been resisting orders to go into Fukushima-contaminated areas and the restarting of the 50 remaining nuclear plants in Japan.<sup>17</sup> This is important to understand when getting involved in the environmental movement: ***McKibben is in favor of nuclear plants to solve the climate problem, and this is his position even after Fukushima and the lessons from that.***

Doro-Chiba workers have taken a stand for international labor solidarity, [against nuclear power](#) and in defense of the environment, denouncing those who would promote nuclear power and serve capitalist interests:<sup>18</sup>

*“We call on all the friends around the world not to let “them” repeat the same disaster. We pledge to fight to live and confront squarely whatever danger assaults us. Let’s rise up together with us to abolish nuclear plants and nuke once and for all. We urge you to fight to overthrow those who are promoting nuclear plant construction and seeking only capitalist interest at the sacrifice of working people.”*

The Communist Workers Group (CWG) will not endorse, but we will not stand by idly either. What is there to endorse in a parade that unites capitalists and workers, a parade that ultimately endorses the continuation of capitalism, specifically because it does not provide a transitional program to take workers to power and end the anarchy of capitalist production responsible for the climate crisis? We will join workers on the streets and invite you to ***join us in building a workers united front against the class collaborationist popular front leadership*** paid for by the biggest capitalists, the corporations and their foundations. McKibben’s popular front of NGOs is a plan to arrange media stunts featuring mass arrests of the gullible and diverting the anger of the

masses away from independent working class action and into moralist witnessing and civil disobedience. This is the political stock-in-trade and modus operandi of the petit bourgeoisie. Workers should be asking ourselves why is this political constellation a bureaucratic top down setup with the secret bosses’ program for a “low carbon future” that includes nuclear power, fracking and the export of the tar sands? Nowhere does McKibben acknowledge the historical necessity of mass struggle organized by the unions to stop industrial pollution with direct action including hot cargoing, strikes and occupations in the work place. On the contrary he works to keep labor demobilized, side by side with the labor bureaucracy and liberal Democrats who depend on the campaign funding from the same class who corrupt “democracy” everywhere.

### **Only the Organized, Class-Political-Conscious Working Class Has the Power to Stop Climate Change**

Wherever McKibben’s popular front controls the environmental movement, spokespersons for the anti-capitalist view and the program of the nationalization of the polluting industries under workers control are excluded from the platform. There is not one atom of coincidence in these exclusions. It is not “over the top” to recognize the collision of class interests each time they occur; each time a workers revolutionary representative is excluded from the speakers’ platform. This is petty bourgeois politics in action and we see the popular front mobilizing you in order to finish the movement off and to cement in your consciousness the idea that you have done your part, where in fact the working class has yet to enter the struggle in its own name and has yet to address the contradiction of capitalist ‘environmentalism.’ Against the popular front we call for a workers united front that launches actions at the point of production to stop fracking and shut down the shipment of tar sands.

***McKibben is trying to stop you from taking labor action to seize the energy industry!*** Otherwise he would say do it! Instead, he wants to convince you to take stunt actions for media hype for his plan to pressure Wall Street players to divest from high carbon fuel production. This is a fantasy that takes no account of the anarchy of the stock market. He says a [stronger and noisier](#) protest movement will push the Wall Street players to do the moral thing, as if examples could be found in history of Wall Street turning its back on profit for any social good.<sup>19</sup>

McKibben wants a capitalist solution to the climate crisis exclusively. He does not call for worker and community control of the energy industry which would require a direct challenge to the Democrats and



Republicans and is necessary to squarely confront this environmental crisis. We all know that as long as the capitalists are in charge of the energy industry they will want to make greater profits by selling more oil and electricity even if it destroys the world. His organization, in alliance with others, has also excluded socialists such as members of the Peace and Freedom Party from rallies that 350.org held, such as the one in Richmond in 2013 where they prevented Cindy Sheehan from speaking, exactly because her party program calls for the expropriation and nationalization of the energy industry. Thus, the role of the “non-profit” industry is absolutely important to understand, since the bosses use these organizations to politically mold the agenda for the community and for labor.

The working class can change the course of history by seizing control of the environmental movement and rewriting its agenda. Massive labor-led actions are required to push the McKibben ilk and class collaboration program off center stage and elevate the workers program to the forefront of the environmental movement. We note with interest the example of the Doro-Chiba railway workers in Japan who marched to the Tepco HQ demanding that the nuclear plants remain shut down and to make clear that they will not be human sacrifices for the company in the contaminated Fukushima zone. Clearly they see this environmental question as a transport workers issue and so do we.

Planetary survival will not be achieved by getting arrested for blocking the street in the moralist civil disobedience scheme. In many places the oppressed have self-organized to fight environmental racism since it is in their neighborhoods that capitalism leaves its contaminants. The example of First Nations Peoples facing down the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to stop Tar Sand transportation is a good one, but without the mobilization of labor defense for the oppressed fighters, such exemplary actions are engaged at a great personal cost. The NGOs may have arrest and release photo ops at the White House, but they never organize workers to defend the oppressed, not in Fergusson and not in Alberta or in Richmond California. The workers answer to environmental racism should be workers’ mass participation, with rail workers leading thousands of other workers and their organizations to support the self-defense actions of the oppressed, and wherever bureaucratic resistance to workers’ self-defense is encountered the old union leaderships should immediately be replaced by rank and file activists committed to class struggle methods.

## For Socialist Revolution To Save Humanity!

We are here today to put a workers revolutionary solution before our social class and to denounce class collaborators and denounce agents of capital who are engaged in a massive fraud designed to deny you your say and to exclude your class from independent participation in decision making about our species future and how to have one.

We come to warn the workers that only by taking control of the means of production can we halt the march of the lemmings, and we propose the following Transitional Program for workers organizations *to form their own working class party* that organizes the working class to smash the capitalist system that is driving the planetary ecosystem to destruction.

Against dangerous processes and practices in industry and agriculture, we fight for factory committees and the trade unions to impose workers’ control and veto power. Safer technology and conditions should be introduced under workers’ inspection and at the bosses’ expense with no loss of pay to workers during shutdowns, retooling and retraining.

Where danger extends beyond the plant, we fight for direct action and mobilization by the mass of workers, where possible in conjunction with the production workers themselves. We demand that the government impose safer methods and materials. Wherever the bosses or their state deny danger or cite economic grounds for refusing to act against dangerous plants, we demand a workers’ inquiry, with the company’s books, as well as its technology, open to inspection by workers and their appointed experts.

The demand for workers’ inquiry is applicable generally in the nuclear, oil and chemical industries, and specifically when new plants and new dump sites are proposed, or when an accident occurs. The main purpose of the workers’ inquiry is to unite the plant workers with the communities affected, around the struggle for safety. No illusions in the independence of the findings of government investigative panels. These are no more independent than the bosses’ courts. Labor must employ its own scientists and engineers to conduct independent inquiries and transparent hearings.

We must fight for workers’ control and veto power over the proposed plants, the disposal of waste and the process of construction. When the workers’ inquiry finds types of plants or dumping unsafe, then the struggle becomes one to shut them down. Most of the time, isolated local struggles cannot win. The battle needs to expand. Mass strike actions

and occupations (sit-down strikes and work-ins!) are the key to victory.

*By fighting for this program through direct action, workers can begin to effectively defend the environment now, in a way that lays the basis for turning that struggle into one against capitalism and for international planning. In this context we fight for:*

- **A massive public works program to clean the environment, funded by the state and operated under workers’ control. Jobs for all.**
- **Workers’ control over health and safety standards in the factories, plants and shops and in the surrounding communities. Where bosses cry poverty and resist, we say nationalize the offending firms under workers control without compensation to the major capitalist shareholders.**
- **Workers’ inspection of nuclear, chemical and other industrial plants to determine their levels of safety; for working class mobilization to enforce closure where threats to safety are determined.**
- **Full lay-off pay when there are plant closures or temporary shutdowns. For alternative jobs with no cut in pay if the workers decide to close a dangerous plant. Implement the 30 hour work-week at 40 hours pay.**
- **Down with the “secrets” of commerce and technology. “Business secrets” are not compatible with workers’ health and safety! Open the company and research books!**
- **The workers must determine what are safe levels of exposure to radiation, toxins, and emissions. Health and safety inspectors must be accountable to the working class.**
- **Workers’ control over the construction of new energy plants, and over plants which will utilize toxic chemicals. An end to the system of contract and temporary toxic and nuclear cleaning squads, and their transformation into permanent employees. Their work can only be made safe under workers’ control.**
- **For power and construction workers to fight for the implementation of acceptable levels of safety precautions and building specifications at all stages of planning and in the supervision of construction.**

*Cont. from pg. 11 Climate March...*

*Cont. from pg. 1 Palestine...*

### 1) Down with the Zionist State!

Israel is a settler state that came into existence after United Nations (UN) resolution 181 in 1947 which was a fig-leaf for British and US imperialist backing of the Zionist colonisation of Palestine and its partition into two legitimate states. This was followed by a [series of wars](#) starting with the [civil war](#) followed by the First [Arab-Israeli war](#) in 1948, together called *al-Nakba* by the Arabs, that led to defeat of Arab forces and drove Arabs off their land to the point that today all of Palestine is either settled by Israelis or controlled by the Israeli military. Those parts of the West Bank and Gaza that are not permanently occupied by the military are no more than prison camps much as are the refugee camps that house millions of displaced Palestinians in Lebanon, Jordan and Syria. Israel justifies it's right to occupy Palestine in terms of its [Zionist claims](#) to the ancient land of Israel. It is pre-occupied with completing its Zionist program of reclaiming its historic homeland which would not be possible without a massive military subsidy from the US. (See '[Zionism: A Road Map to Hell](#)').

Israel is therefore not an imperialist economic power and only exists on the basis of US and EU imperialist support. It might be called 'sub-imperialist' in the sense of "sub-contracted to US imperialism". It is an armed settler state with a theocratic Zionist regime no less 'fundamentalist' than its rival Islamic Republic of Iran, or the upstart rival Sunni Islamic State (ISIS), and certainly a nuclear armed 'terrorist' state. It is an affront not only to the Palestinians, but to Jews and to humanity as a whole that Zionist Israel exists, and so must be destroyed. (see [Against Zionism](#)).

Writing on [The Jewish Problem](#) in 1937, Trotsky foresaw the tragedy of Zionism as a reactionary solution to the national rights of Jews: "*But the facts of every passing day demonstrate to us that Zionism is incapable of resolving the Jewish question. The conflict between the Jews and Arabs in Palestine acquires a more and more tragic and more and more menacing character. I do not at all believe that the Jewish question can be resolved within the framework of rotting capitalism and under the control of British imperialism. And how, you ask me, can socialism solve this question? On this point I can but offer hypotheses. Once socialism has become master of our planet or at least of its most important sections, it will have unimaginable resources in all domains. Human history has witnessed the epoch of great migrations on the basis of barbarism. Socialism will open the possibility of great migrations on the basis of the most developed technique and culture. It goes without saying*

*that what is here involved is not compulsory displacements, that is, the creation of new ghettos for certain nationalities, but displacements freely consented to, or rather demanded by certain nationalities or parts of nationalities. The dispersed Jews who would want to be reassembled in the same community will find a sufficiently extensive and rich spot under the sun. The same possibility will be opened for the Arabs, as for all other scattered nations. National topography will become a part of the planned economy. This is the grand historical perspective that I envisage. To work for international socialism means also to work for the solution of the Jewish question."*

### 2) Palestinian National Liberation

The struggle of the Palestinian masses against Israeli occupation is a national liberation struggle. To achieve Palestinian liberation the Zionist state must be destroyed. National liberation does not mean recognition of the state of Israel as legitimate nor the acceptance of a two-state solution. This is the position of one faction of the Palestinian bourgeoisie –Fatah. Nor does it mean the opportunist policy of the other bourgeois faction Hamas, i.e. military confrontation to recognise the de facto right for Israel to exist until it can be replaced by a theocratic Islamic State of Palestine. Between these two factions' policies of dividing up Palestine with the Zionists there is no essential difference. Both are "bloody traps" for the Arab masses manipulated as pawns of the rival factions of the Palestinian bourgeoisie.

Much of the Western left also buys into a negotiated '[peaceful](#)' solution such as the claim that Israel is an 'apartheid' state which can be reformed by pressure of international public opinion and more UN resolutions to go back to the partition of 1947. This is based on the belief that Jews have national rights in Palestine that can be peacefully resolved by recognising both Palestinian and Jewish rights. This is making Palestine liberation conditional on Jewish national rights as if they have an equal claim to living in Palestine. Not so. Trotsky argued that in the [1930s](#) that Jews could claim national rights as an oppressed nation, but not at the expense of occupying Palestine.

*"The attempt to solve the Jewish question through the migration of Jews to Palestine can now be seen for what it is, a tragic mockery of the Jewish people. Interested in winning the sympathies of the Arabs who are more numerous than the Jews, the British government has sharply altered its policy toward the Jews, and has actually renounced its promise to help them found their "own home" in a foreign land. The future development of military events may well transform Palestine into a bloody trap for several hundred thousand Jews. Never*

- **Structural improvements in the housing of reactors until they can be decommissioned and dismantled. For workers and community democratic control over the means of transportation to ensure safe disposal of nuclear waste and other toxic materials; establish a workers plan for abating the increase in CO2, Methane and Nitrous Oxide into the atmosphere and radioactive contamination from nuclear power plants, uranium mining and the use of tactical radioactive weaponry.**
- **Representation of all sections of the workforce in factory committees as plant-based democratic organs of struggle.**
- **For massive strike actions and/or occupations of plants to enforce the above.**
- **For workers' councils with the involvement of and delegated representation from the communities to defend workers' lives and the environment.**
- **For workers' militias to defend occupations and all strikes.**
- **Nationalize without compensation to the major shareholders the commanding heights of the economy and run these under sane and rational workers control for social need: the energy industry and all other major industries, the railroads, the banking and finance sectors, agriculture, healthcare and education.**
- **For a workers party that fights for a workers government to establish a rational centrally-planned, green economy.**
- **For a new revolutionary workers' international based on the method and program of Trotsky's "[Death Agony of Capitalism and the Tasks of the Fourth International](#)".<sup>20</sup> For world socialism!**

In the following article and in our online articles we postulate that capitalism must be overthrown by workers revolution in order to establish a planned economy capable of ending the dependence on the burning of fossil fuel and mobilizing science, engineering and the international work force for the enormous task of transitioning the energy systems to arrest anthropogenic climate change.

**NOTE: all footnote links can be found in the online articles on our websites**



Cont. from pg. 12 Palestine...

*was it so clear as it is today that the salvation of the Jewish people is bound up inseparably with the overthrow of the capitalist system.”* [On the Jewish Problem](#).

The National rights of Jews therefore cannot be at the expense of the Palestinians. So the national liberation of Palestine means the defeat of Israel and the re-occupation of Palestine by the armed people of Palestine, with or without the support of militant Jews, and necessarily in conjunction with the popular revolutions that have begun in the other Arab states. The national rights of Jews will be realised in a democratic, socialist, multi-ethnic workers' state in Palestine.

### 3) The Arab Revolution

Since 1948 the Palestinian revolution has been isolated (in effect quarantined) by the Arab states whose regimes professed support for Palestinian rights, but stopped short at limited wars to weakly contest the expanding borders of Israel. The surrounding Arab states condemned the Israeli state but in practice put their own separate interests before the defence of Palestine. They were rivals for leadership of the Arab states and could never agree on a unified strategy. In 1948 King Abdullah of Jordan backed by Britain, schemed with the Zionists to incorporate the US mandated Palestine into Jordan but was opposed by Egypt and Syria who had their own plans to annex Palestine. The outcome of the war was a victory for Israel and its expansion well beyond the UN partition borders (see map).

The 1967 “[Third Arab-Israeli war](#)” between Israel and Egypt, Syria and Jordan also led to an outright Israeli victory and further incursions into Palestinian territory. (see map). Since that time the Arab states have collaborated with Israel. Egypt and Israel struck an agreement over Gaza. In Syria, the secular Baathist regime of Assad father and son, co-existed with the theocratic Zionist state just as much as it collaborated with the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Arab and Israeli ruling classes were in agreement on their fundamental interest of keeping the Arab revolution divided and quarantined.

The Arab Spring changed that. Since 2011 the uprisings from Tunisia to Syria have forced the Arab regimes to actively suppress or co-opt the spread and synchronisation of these popular uprisings. In Syria Assad has starved and bombed the [Palestinian camp](#) of [Yarmouk](#) because the different leadership factions including Hamas that ruled the camp could not suppress the solidarity of the Palestinian



masses with the Syrian Revolution. Moreover the revolutions continue in Libya and Syria where the armed resistance continues to fight the regime. The outbreak of a popular war against the Maliki regime in Iraq puts on the agenda not only the defeat of imperialism in MENA but also the defeat of imperialism's puppet regimes in Iraq and Syria and their Islamic State rivals. For the first time a Palestinian popular uprising has the potential to join forces with the Egyptian, Syrian and Iraqi revolutions and to link up the Palestinian masses in Lebanon and Jordan in a wider Arab revolution to overthrow imperialism and its national bourgeois puppets.

### 4) Role of Imperialism

There are no imperialist powers in the MENA. Israel and all the Arab regimes are semi-colonies of imperialism including the oil-rich Gulf States (and the non-Arab Iran). In the last analysis, Israel's existence is not about land grabbing in the name of God, but its military role as the mercenary of US and EU imperialism in defending their interests in MENA against the emergence of the rival imperialist bloc of Russia and China. The Arab regimes act as agents of one or the other, or both imperialist blocs, as they compete to win their favour and increase their share of the oil wealth exploited by imperialism. There can be no Arab Revolution unless it breaks with both imperialism and all the national bourgeois factions that rule over the masses on its behalf.

It is not possible to complete the national revolutions to defeat imperialism without overthrowing the national bourgeois factions that rule on behalf of imperialism. Hamas and Fatah in Palestine use the masses as military pawns to negotiate better terms with Israel

for dividing Palestine. The Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt and in Syria compete with the military al Sisi and Assad regimes, and secular bourgeois factions such as the Free Syrian Army (FSA), for popular support to win the backing of the US and/or China/Russia. All compete to prove they can contain the Arab Revolution and that it is not they but their rivals that are the ‘terrorists’ that must be smashed. Against such brutal regimes, the Arab revolution that is historically centred on Palestine must declare its political independence from all bourgeois factions and build popular armed militias based on the workers and oppressed. See “[The Arab Revolution meets NATO/Zionism](#)”.

### 5) For Permanent Revolution

The struggle for an independent, secular Arab revolution has to contend with a history in which the revolutionary Marxist party has been betrayed by Stalinist popular front politics. That is, Communist Parties in MENA have historically collaborated with ‘progressive’ national bourgeois factions such as Fatah and the Baath Party purportedly against imperialism. But such collaboration has never led to national independence only to the defeat of the masses. The Arab revolution has made important advances against such historic betrayals only by taking up the armed and independent struggle against imperialism and its bourgeois lackeys. The fighting masses need to take the leadership of the anti-imperialist struggle out of the hands of the national bourgeoisie and embark on the road to socialist revolution.

So the Palestinian Intifadas threatened to break the masses from the control of Fatah and Hamas and the threat of popular revolution forced these bourgeois lackeys to negotiate with Israel to contain the revolution. In Libya the armed militias retain a dual power against the pro-imperialist post-Gaddafi regime despite the current US attempt led by its henchman General Khalifa [Hifter](#) to disarm the militias. In Syria the secular armed revolution is holding out despite terrible odds against both the regime and the Islamic State. In Egypt, the masses are now facing a military dictatorship that strips away all illusions that the military is ‘progressive’. What is lacking is the Marxist party and program for Permanent Revolution that spells out the necessity for the armed, independent struggle for socialist republics within a wider Federation of Socialist Republics of MENA.

### 6) Revolutionary Party and Program

Only a revolutionary Marxist party and program is capable of addressing the

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Palestinian revolution as part of the Permanent Arab Revolution and as part of a global revolution. This is because as we said above the Zionist state is a military settler state funded by US and EU imperialism as its mercenary in MENA. It is the key to US and NATO control of its MENA 'assets' both political and economic which is today a vital defence of the US bloc's oil assets against those of its rival Russia/China bloc. It is also imperialism's weakest link in MENA because its role as imperialist gendarme forces it to militarise its settler population. This means that all Zionism's claims to national rights and democratic legitimacy are constantly exposed as extreme hypocrisy turning the oppression of the Palestinian people into the flaming beacon of the Arab Revolution. The cry "We are all Palestinians" means that while the Palestinians are not free, no-one is free!

That is why the struggle against imperialism in the MENA cannot succeed without the defeat of Israel and the smashing of the Zionist state. While it exists it will play the role it has played since 1948 as the armed mercenary of US imperialism in MENA. Just as US imperialism can only strive to prevent its own decline as the No 1 imperialist power, so Israel's fate is dependent on its role of protecting its master in MENA. Only the revolutionary Leninist/Trotskyist Party can cut through the pacifist liberal confusion that holds out the possibility of a negotiated peace in Palestine and in the wider MENA. Revolutionary Marxism is uncompromising in leading such a revolution because it refuses to legitimise the Zionist state!

In response to the left-liberal cry 'victory for the Intifada' we say victory can only be the victory of a revolutionary war of national liberation that (1) overthrows the Zionist IDF, (2) defeats all intervention by imperialism or its proxies, Saudi Arabia, the Gulf States, Iran and Turkey, and (3) exposes and defeats the treacherous leadership of the the national bourgeois agents of imperialism in Palestine, Hamas and Fatah!

We agree with Trotsky. In 1998 we wrote:

*"A democratic multi-ethnic Palestine could only be achieved as a result of a socialist revolution based on workers councils and militias. It would also be part of a Socialist Federation of the Middle East. In that context not only Palestinians would have the right to return but also Arab Jews would have the right to return to Syria, Morocco, Iraq and other Arab countries. Kurds, Assyrian and other nationalities would achieve self-determination and equal rights."* [Against Zionism](#).

- **That is why our program calls for the Egyptian working masses to build workers councils and militias to overthrow al Sisi and the military dictatorship, and to form an army able to break down the walls and open the borders of Gaza to unite its people with the West Bank and Jordan!**
- **We call on the Palestinian masses in occupied Palestine and in Syria, Jordan and Lebanon to unite with the Syrian revolution to build workers councils and militias to smash both the Assad regime and the Islamic State (ISIS) and its allies Hezbollah and Iranian fighters.**
- **We condemn all self-proclaimed revolutionaries in the imperialist countries for failing in their duty to take action against their own imperialist ruling classes, whose defeat ultimately will enable the permanent revolution in MENA to be victorious.**
- **We oppose all pacifist, individualist boycotts and appeals to UNO negotiations as continuing the legitimization of imperialist rule in MENA and as barriers to the armed, independence of the Arab masses.**
- **We call on Israeli workers to take the side of Palestinian liberation and strike for the release of Palestinian political prisoners!**
- **We call on Israel conscripts in the military to refuse to obey orders to shoot or otherwise oppress Palestinians!**
- **Defeat Zionism! We refuse to demand that the Zionist state frees its political prisoners, pull down its walls and grants the right of return. We do not create illusions in Israel as we do not recognise its right to exist. These rights and the right of return will be enforced by Zionism's defeat!**
- **We call on workers in the imperialist countries to mobilise in their unions to enforce bans on all diplomatic, military and trade relations with Israel!**
- **We call on the ranks of the military to mobilise against all imperialist occupation and intervention in the Arab states!**
- **We call on the unions to make political strikes against the US funding of Israeli occupation! We call on workers to build international brigades to fight alongside the armed, independent militias in Palestine, Syria and Iraq, and for weapons and medical aid to the Palestinian struggle!**
- **For a Socialist Palestine within a Federation of Socialist Republics of MENA!**

*Cont. from pg. 3 Editorial...*

minimal that those in power feel free to ignore them. The Hong Kong masses need an authentic workers movement leadership that knows how to raise the kind of demands that force the state power to make concessions. Absent a revolutionary party that champions their survival, the Hong Kong masses will have to go through more disappointing experiences of this kind, but we know that revolutionary Marxists are a product of the masses and their history and we look forward to joining with and working with them.

...

As we go to press, we are receiving calls from ad-hoc groupings around the U.S. to hit the streets and protest the day after the delivery of the report of the Ferguson Grand Jury. We endorse these calls. We exhort our readers to organize. We expect no indictments of any police and certainly not of Darren Wilson, the cop who murdered Michael Brown. What we expect is the overnight deployment of the Missouri National Guard to Ferguson and resumption of the wholesale police assault on the black community. We expect numbers of Fergusons in the remaining two years of "post-racial America."

We see no end of deadly force employed by the state against the black masses and we note new revelations of Federal collusion with the local law enforcement even in violation of Federal law. Thus the FAA was reported by the Associated Press to have agreed to ban overflights of Ferguson by news helicopters on the basis of a hoax where police maintain that their helicopters have been shot at. ***The FAA was told by Ferguson police not to interfere with flights by other commercial aviation traffic*** and the police never filed an incident report, causing a local FAA traffic manager to describe the police rationale as based on a rumor. But we know what the story is.

The Ferguson police do not want TV viewers across the country to witness the big picture of their behavior. We expect the police to return to their favorite activity at any moment even before Attorney General Eric Holder's replacement has been sworn in. You remember Holder don't you? He promised Ferguson that justice would be found and lost his job instead.

We refer readers to our article in this issue "[For Labor, Black and Brown Defense Against Racist Police Terror](#)." Only the power of united working class armed both politically and militarily and organized on a class war footing can put an end to the racist police power. Mass assembly councils of the workers and the oppressed backed by a workers' militia will do away with the bourgeois state and the wage labor system that prizes profits above human life and civilization and even above species survival. As an immediate demand fastened directly on the survival of the youth of black America, we call upon the unions and community organizations of the

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oppressed to form self-defense pickets and militia bodies to defend all threatened black, brown and immigrant communities.

After 43 days and after enormous confrontations between the Mexican masses and the bourgeois authorities, the Attorney General Jesus Murillo, told the families of the 43 missing students from Iguala that the mayor of Iguala, now under arrest, had worried that the noisy fund-raising solicitations of the students would interfere with a social event planned by his wife. So he sic'ed the cops on them and the cops turned the students over to their drug-gang buddies who took them out of town, murdered them, burnt their bodies and threw their remains in a river. Jesus Murillo didn't answer many questions and didn't supply much proof and he cut short the press conference saying "ya Me canse."

All over Mexico and almost spontaneously protesters appear with "ya Me canse" signs because they are tired of living like this in conditions where the state is in partnership with the narcotics gangs and can even be seen as incapable of ruling without their support. We think Mexico is ripe for revolution. The disappearance of the 43 students in Iguala follows a host of revelations of discoveries of mass graves in every department except Chiapas, and the tempo of these revelations is also increasing. The state/narco-trafficker alliance is waging war on virtually the entire Mexican population, exclusive of the tiny national bourgeoisie.



The Mexican national bourgeoisie is a comprador class that serves as the overseer in U.S. imperialism's backyard. NAFTA promised the Mexican peasant masses industrial employment, but the Maquiladora wages created another desparate underclass on the Mexican side of the Rio Grande and hell-hole conditions with no environmental protections whatsoever. Meanwhile, Mexican agriculture atrophied, throwing ever larger numbers of 'no future youth' into the sprawling cities. At the same time, the narco-trafficking gangs grew like mushrooms to fill the U.S. demand becoming such local and even regional powers that the state had to find some way to accommodate them. Those who seek justice today should look to the example of Nestora Salgado (and not to the example of some of her erstwhile supporters, who also accommodated the bourgeois state.)

***In Mexico the chief problem is the crisis of proletarian leadership, ...in Mexico as elsewhere.***

We stand in solidarity with The National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa (NUMSA) and the statement of the six unions protesting its expulsion from Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) and demanding their reinstatement. NUMSA was correct to call upon COSATU to break from the African National Congress (ANC) popular front government. The crisis in the labor movement is the result of the actual ANC government's neo-liberal National Development Plan (NDP); in practice, it delivers labor bound hand and foot to the interests of the competing imperialist blocs. NUMSA is absolutely right to call for working class political independence and the formation of a new workers party that fights for socialism. (see Class War supplement-[South Africa: NUMSA breaks with ANC.](#))

The expulsion of NUMSA is a crime against the entire working class committed on behalf of imperialism by COSATU carrying out the program of the ANC and South African Communist Party (SACP). Thus the split in the workers movement is a counter-revolutionary act of possibly historic proportion for the South African revolution. The ANC and SACP seek to bureaucratically transform COSATU and the African labor movement from a militant vanguard of the international proletariat into a subservient bureaucracy capable of smashing the workers resistance. What the expulsion of NUMSA means is that COSATU without NUMSA will be the arm of the capitalist state for disciplining the working class and in this development plan there will be no progress toward any socialism except possibly a fake Bolivarian or Chinese inspired "21st century socialism". Then, failure by COSATU to discipline labor will result in two, three, many Marikanas!

NUMSA charged that the ANC had abandoned the 'minimum' program of the liberation of South Africa from Apartheid, the "Freedom Charter." NUMSA charges that adoption of the National Development Plan (NDP) by the ANC signifies the end of any commitment by the ANC to a socialist future. We agree.

Where we of the LCC do not agree with the NUMSA leadership is their view of how socialism is to be achieved. Thus we see the two questions of unity of the labor movement and the revolutionary road to socialism as inseparable. For us it is excluded and a mistake to try to seek reinstatement in COSATU via the bourgeoisie's courts, which are also the courts of the ANC and the Stalinists of the SACP. Similarly and much more profoundly we see the continued adherence to the Freedom Charter as a mixture of nostalgia and a Stalinist theory of revolution by stages. A theory that is exactly to blame for landing



South Africa in its present impasse. We see hope in brother Irvin Jim's quoting of Engels on the path to socialism and what labor needs to achieve to accomplish its historic mission.

However democratic demands in themselves are not transitional demands and a democratic program alone will not smash any bourgeois state, even one led by Stalinists who have already demonstrated to you how they employ the state power. Therefore we urge the NUMSA membership and leadership to take the fight for the unity of COSATU to the ranks of every union at the same time as they struggle for the new workers party and champion the immediate recall of the COSATU leadership. We support NUMSA's call for a national convention and we urge upon the membership of the new workers party a revolutionary transitional program that places the expropriation of the expropriators on the immediate order of the day. Such a program is the only path to socialism for non-imperialist countries, since the national bourgeoisie proves unable and unwilling to deliver on the democratic aspirations of the masses and the historic bourgeois democratic program. Workers must recognize that this is the lesson of their own experience of the last 20 years and adopt a revolutionary program that makes them the "tribunes of all the people."

### ***Walmart: Strikes or Protests?***

*Will this be the year Walmart workers join unions, sit down, occupy, strike and win a living wage with benefits? Or will the failed strategy of one day sympathy community pickets continue ad nauseum into the future? A fighting workers movement would field thousands of organizers to unionize Walmart and strike for recognition. But we know the labor leadership is tied to the Democrats and Hillary Clinton is an old friend (used to sit on the board) of Walmart. And even if the Democrats know it is inevitable that the workers at Walmart are going to win they intend to drag the process out as long as they can by funding fake organizing campaigns. It will take rank and file led class struggle unions to get this job done and it won't be done without fighting against labor's subordination to the Democratic Party.*

# U.S. Imperialists Out of Iraq, the Middle East and North Africa! For Workers Struggle to Defeat Imperialism in the Near East!



## American Workers: Don't Be Fooled by the "National Interest"!

Big oil rules the roost at the NY stock exchange and in the City of London and most other stock exchanges around the world. It is for them that over 2 million Iraqi civilians have met a violent end at the hands of the U.S. and its successive coalitions. And deductions from your paychecks have paid for *twenty four years of Iraq wars and sanctions that have produced no stability, never mind peace.* The U.S. Government has wrecked Iraq and slowly but continuously slaughtered its people. We should not forget that the sanctions regime that was supposed to cause the overthrow of Saddam Hussein killed upwards of 500,000 Iraqi children and there seems to be no count of how many civilians died as a result of collateral damage during the air campaign that coincided with these sanctions. There are no [hard figures from the two wars](#), and you can take your pick whether you consider the current U.S.-led military campaign a continuation of the second or a third U.S.-Iraq war.<sup>1</sup> For the Sunni population, oppressed since the "de-Ba'athization," beginning in 2003, the first U.S. war on their denomination has never ended.

Obama sells his coalition air campaign as a defense of the 'democratic' government of Iraq, *but it is clear to anyone on the ground that their principal goal is to attack anyone associated with the Syrian Revolution, under the guise of attacking 'terrorists'.* The U.S. government has not said who is in

and who is out of the 'moderate opposition' to the Assad regime, while the question goes unanswered whether the U.S. itself opposes the Assad regime. We see Assad applauding the bombing and his air defenses don't molest the marauding coalition bombers; likewise we see the U.S. air force being fastidious about not attacking the Assad regime military installations or forces.

Thus we see Obama's 'coalition of the willing' bombing oil fields controlled by ISIS in Syria and while leaving Kurds in Kobane in the lurch as soon as darkness falls. A number of sources who have proven reliable have already decided to call Obama's campaign a "war against the Syrian revolution." This certainly explains the acquiescence of the Iranians and the China/Russia imperialist bloc in the U.S. attacks on the Sunni uprising. And this goes a long way to explain the strange bedfellows we see where the UK have conferences with Iran for the first time in many years, then joining the U.S. air campaign, and where Jordan and even Saudi Arabia put aside their belligerence of generations against Iran to join in the attack on the Syrian Revolution on the pretext of fighting terrorism. In fact, the New Caliphate project of ISIS scares the royals half to death.

Egypt has joined Washington's coalition against terrorism. And the U.S. administration is silent on the human rights violations of the el-Sisi regime. In fact the throttling of the Egyptian Revolution looks to Washington like it has been accomplished, and now Washington and the monarchs and

the dictators look to finish off the revolution in Syria behind the pretext of fighting another "war on terror" in Iraq.

Of course there are anomalies aplenty making it easy for those who reject dialectics to confuse the working class. Washington was not able to pursue its preferred course uninterruptedly. Palestinian resistance put the Central Command's plans temporarily on hold. It was not possible to have a U.S.A.-led coalition against Muslim enemies at the same moment that the U.S. was obviously supplying the Israeli assault on Gaza.

## Dialectics Clarifies and Resolves the Picture

We will explain: the strategy the U.S. has pursued, the insurgency, the reactionary theocrats who seek to co-opt the legitimate democratic demands of the Sunni population, the legitimate national aspirations of the Kurds, the Syrian revolutionary struggle against Assad, the international sources of support for the U.S.-led bloc and the reactionary regional supporters for the Islamic State caliphate project. We will show the rhetoric of the Democrats for what it really is and we will condemn the almost preposterous politics of the supine left and liberal labor misleadership for what they are, [social-imperialists](#) of the worst sort.<sup>2</sup>

The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) generally, and Syria in particular has recently become the main arena of the inter-imperialist conflict between the U.S.-led bloc and the China/Russia rising imperialist bloc. What surprises many is the fact that the contention is actually for the allegiance of the Iranian bourgeoisie and with it the oil they control. Chief instigator of the conflict and the shooting war is of course the United States, which fears that Iran will become a member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), the formal name of the China/Russia alliance. We call for and seek to build the broadest movement to end Washington's Middle East military adventure, which they claim to wage in the "national interest" and in defense of the security and safety of American persons.

Just as in 1990, with the first Gulf War against Saddam Hussein and Iraq, a U.S.-initiated imperialist coalition is shaping up to launch yet another military adventure in the region under the guise of going after the reactionary, barbaric fundamentalist Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIS). Right now, a coalition of more than 50 nations, plus the EU and NATO, are backing Obama's war drive. This includes such bankrupt social democrats and social imperialists as President Hollande of the French Socialist Party. France has already conducted [air strikes](#).<sup>3</sup> Now the arch labor-faker and leader of the UK Labour Party Ed Miliband has signed on to the imperialist



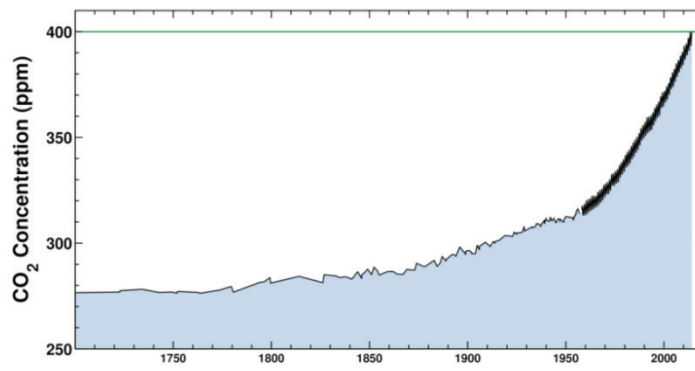
bombing project. Germany under Merkel has sent military advisers and arms to the oppressed Kurds (although fighters in Kobane say they haven't received so much as a band-aid.) To date, we have heard nothing from Richard Trumka. The deafening silence indicates unanimity with his master Obama.

Both Merkel of Germany and Hollande of France have claimed that hundreds of their citizens have joined ISIS in Iraq and in Syria. British Prime Minister David Cameron is having an apoplectic fit over what he perceives to be thousands of British Muslim volunteers joining ISIS and/or the al-Nusra Front, the Syrian al-Qaeda organization. Imperialist propagandists are creating a panic about the return of "terrorists" to the 'homeland' not only to justify intervention in Iraq and Syria, but also to criminalize the movements of workers and youth in their own countries. No doubt these leaders will fuel yet more anti-Muslim, anti-immigrant racism throughout the EU and use it to justify state discrimination and repression. Even before the current conflict, the European economies, staggering through the world crisis of capitalism, all tried various schemes to limit Muslim immigration and now face an inundation by refugees from the American-led bombing campaign.

Of note also is that none of the BRICS countries have joined Obama's coalition. The BRICS countries are quickly lining up as full-fledged allies with the emerging imperialist China/Russia bloc in competition with the U.S. and the EU.

A century after the beginning of the First World War, world capitalism is shaping up to be just as much of a tinderbox, only this time playing with modern, sophisticated conventional weapons of mass destruction, while the world remains on a [hair-trigger nuclear alert](#).<sup>4</sup> The overarching question now is just whether climate destruction or world war will be the next or perhaps final great human catastrophe, if the working class does not take all power from the ruling class and sweep away the profit system while there is still time.

We oppose Obama's continuation war, AKA Bush's legacy war, which is another episode in the Wolfowitz/Perl war for the benefit of the Military Industrial Complex, a plan for the Pentagon to blow the [Cold War "peace dividend"](#) and to extend into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century the pre-eminence of Big Oil's profits in the shaping of the global economy.<sup>5</sup> The end of the Cold War, the "[End of History](#)",<sup>6</sup> has not resulted in the ushering in of liberal democracy and peace, but repression, poverty, environmental destruction ([see chart](#)



*As climate change threatens humanity, U.S. imperialists invest not in a green economy, but yet more war*

[below](#))<sup>7</sup>, endless wars, austerity and a very unstable world.

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U.S. imperialism is continuing its role as the biggest threat to humanity in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century where they used nuclear weapons twice against civilian populations, mass bombed Korea and North Vietnam, brought the world to the brink of nuclear war over the Cuban Missile Crisis (Turkish missile crisis for the Russians), and engaged in numerous covert and military operations to suppress popular uprisings from the Bay of Pigs to Indonesia to Nicaragua. The Democratic and Republican *parties* always support U.S.



*Liberal NGO's such as MoveOn.org and progressive activists promote peace while supporting the Democratic Party of war.*

imperialist military adventures, even if some of their elected members sometimes object, as shown by the recent saber-rattling against Syria, Iran and North Korea. As the world's one hegemonic military power wobbles on its perch, U.S. imperialism becomes an ever-greater danger for the international working class. Its economic power wanes and that of the emerging imperialist powers of China and Russia grows and conflicts over spheres of influence and trade preference have already begun. So what the U.S. could not enforce through economic pressure before will soon have to be resolved through military conflict.

### **Workers Need To Prevent Any New Vietnam War In Iraq and Syria**

The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) continues to be a focal point of social and class struggles, as well as a key strategic

area for the imperialist blocs of the U.S./EU and the China/Russia bloc, as capitalists the world over reel from economic crisis. On top of the democratic aspirations of the working masses, the unresolved national questions of the Kurds and the Palestinians, the workers of the region face increasing exploitation and immiseration at the hands of the imperialist powers and their own brutal comprador bourgeoisie. This new Iraq War episode follows the genocidal bombing and military devastation by the Zionist Israeli U.S. client state against the

Palestinian people in Gaza, armed by the U.S. and with unanimous bi-partisan Democratic/Republican support. While Obama is for air strikes and trying to form an imperialist coalition, U.S. chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Dempsey is speculating that ground troops will need to be used. 500 members of the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division were dispatched to Iraq while he spoke (the afternoon of September 26<sup>th</sup>).

John McCain said he had no problem with a 100 year war on terror as long 'we win'. The CWG said in an editorial in [Class War Vol. 2, #2 \(pg. 17\)](#) that this idea did not find favor with voters who saw Obama as a peace candidate pledging to end the Iraq War.<sup>8</sup> So they voted for him instead. Now we see how that turned out; as in every other fundamental question the Democrats in power are the mirror image of the Republicans. They work for the same people--the 1%--and that ain't us!

So under Obama we are now engaged in the third of the more or less continuous Iraq Wars that date back to 1991, which together with the sanctions ("[war by other means](#)")<sup>9</sup> goes back to 1990, almost **a quarter century of war**. If Obama goes back on his word not to send ground troops, and does so, many of the poverty draft enlisted ranks will have been born after the onset of this 'endless war'.

U.S. policy has made a wreck of Iraq and its political connivance has caused communal warfare that drives the insurgencies of the oppressed. Playing world policeman has not made the world safer, but has destabilized a strategic region of the world. World imperialism has driven the masses both into progressive directions, such as the Local Coordinating Committees (LCC) in Syria and the Palestinian resistance, but also into the camp of social reaction where a political vacuum exists, such as what we are witnessing with ISIS. It is ever more crucial that the oppressed working masses of the world once again see the struggle for

*Cont. from pg. 17 Iraq...*

socialism as their beacon of hope for social progress.

### **ISIS: Bourgeois Reaction In Theocratic Robes**

ISIS is a relatively recent phenomenon. It now claims to have 10,000 foreign fighters who have rallied to its New Caliphate project, although until recently its main sources of membership were the preceding al-Qaeda in Iraq (AQI) and defectors from the Syrian al-Nusra Front. In the political vacuum caused by the U.S. de-Ba'athization campaign, they found themselves in local control. While the U.S. made war against the post-Saddamist insurgency in Iraq, AQI made a contest for leadership of the Sunni resistance but were driven from Iraq into exile in Syria by the U.S. and U.S.-rented militias. Ayman al-Zawahiri told the AQI leadership that they were to confine their activities to Iraq and that the al-Nusra Front was the al-Qaeda standard-bearer in Syria. But ISIS managed to secure its own sources of funds and weapons and rejected tutelage from Bin-Laden's successor and launched their own New Caliphate project. The western press has trumpeted ISIS' bank robbing, extortion, protection racketeering and oil-siphoning as sources of their where-withal, but the real wellsprings have been captured oil fields and sections of the Saudi and Gulf emirate aristocracy and bourgeoisie who have been generous with their funds and weapons caches precisely because they have no faith that Obama will liberate or protect any Sunni peoples and can see the obvious overarching tilt of Obama's foreign policy aimed at luring Iran out of the China/Russia SCO imperialist camp. They don't trust the U.S. The Sheiks and bankers watched every time the U.S. switched its position on the Kurdish question.

It was the policies of the U.S. puppet al-Maliki government in Baghdad, in particular its Shiite and pro-Iranian biases together with de-Ba'athization which prepared the conditions of ongoing oppression of the Sunni minority and a Sunni uprising was thus bound to take place sooner or later. The reactionary theocrats of the ISIS group have scammed the righteous Sunni uprising. Their project is for a theocratic state and no different in essentials from the Iranian or Israeli model for that matter. This is an attempt to elevate a Sunni bourgeoisie to positions of privilege in a caliphate ruled by religious zealots.

One of the major appeals of ISIS that the left often overlooks is their stated aim of liberating the historical Levant from the western powers and western culture and this includes Lebanon and parts of Saudi Arabia, as well as the present spheres of conflict and naturally enough this appeals to sections of

the Sunni 'out' bourgeoisie who have been excluded from the gravy train since the overthrow of Saddam Hussein.

No doubt about it. ISIS is a reactionary, mortal enemy of the MENA working class, as they engage in barbarous attacks on Kurds, non-Muslims, Shiites and Sunnis they perceive as enemies. The crimes of ISIS though pale in comparison to those of the U.S. imperialists, who are responsible for millions of Iraqi deaths from the two wars and sanctions. It was Clinton's UN Ambassador, Madeleine Albright, who in 1996 told Leslie Stahl on "60 Minutes" when asked about a half million dead Iraqi children that "...we think the price is worth it."<sup>10</sup> Our contacts in the region have pointed out to us that Assad has killed 150 times as many Syrians as ISIS has.

The Obama policy requires a suspension of disbelief to be able to claim that they are going in to spend three more years liberating Iraq from the ISIS 'barbarians'. This isn't about moral outrage by Obama or any other Democratic or Republican representative of the ruling class. The U.S. simply sees ISIS as an unreliable alternative to Assad, which also has the nasty habit of chopping heads off, so it's hard to make business deals with these folks. Raking in profits requires something of a stable political and social environment. If tomorrow ISIS was perceived as advancing U.S. interests, you can bet Obama would be there behind them selling their virtues.

### **Military Policy for the Working Class**

For the working class, ISIS' sole 'virtue' is its resistance arms in hand against the Coalition air war. Already there are questions whether ISIS is indeed the target of these attacks. The ultimate target of these attacks is always the Syrian and unfinished Arab national revolution, which threatens Big Oil and all of capitalist property. We know what any kid in the schoolyard knows and what much of the petty-bourgeois left never did learn; that the enemy of my enemy is not necessarily my friend by any means. When ISIS is firing upon the imperialists, we fire upon the imperialists as well. To that extent we would exist in a tacit military bloc, but no political support would be implied. The working class would expect to be the target of ISIS gunfire tomorrow, and not only because of religious collisions, but because of white hot opposition of class interests. To survive, even if triumphant, ISIS will need to make a deal with one or the other imperialist bloc. Thus they are among the ultimate enemies of the working class; even nowadays they give the Assad regime a free pass. They have avoided all but the most incidental and accidental clashes with Assad's forces while they concentrate their fire on the Syrian revolutionaries. We call for an end to the bombing and the withdrawal

of the U.S. troops and the withdrawal of all support to the puppet regime in Baghdad!

We are for the Local Coordinating Committees (LCC), who are the expression both of the masses self-organization and the basis and command and control for local self-defense. They find themselves in political and armed conflict with the Assad regime, with ISIS, and now with Obama's Coalition, as a matter of survival. We are for their proliferation across Syria, Kurdistan and Iraq as well. The principle reason Obama has withheld surface to air missiles (SAMS) and man portable air defense weapons from the Free Syrian Army (FSA) is the bourgeoisie's fear that these weapons will find their way to the LCC's and not whether they will get into the hands of ISIS or other terrorists. Above all the U.S. seeks the eradication of the LCC's. The LCC's have the potential to become the basic organs and expressions of popular democracy and can develop politically and in their membership into the basic organs of workers' state power through the Permanent Revolution.

The working class in Iraq, Syria, Kurdistan and Palestine is opposed and besieged militarily by Assad, ISIS, al-Abadi (Iraqi Prime Minister) and the U.S. coalition of the willing. All of whom have taken up arms against the advance of the Arab national revolution and in particular against its most advanced forms to date, the Local Coordinating Committees that form the base of the Syrian revolution and against the organizations of the Kurdish national movement and particularly the fighters of the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK). The Kurdish fighters today face off against ISIS and find themselves in a tacit military bloc with U.S. imperialism, but they know well that imperialisms' guns have long supported the Turkish and Iraqi claims to Kurdistan, and the mere fact that the PKK and the USA are both fighting ISIS does not make them allies.

ISIS, while full of bluster in its attempt to provoke the ire of the west with hideously staged beheadings, is not an honest broker when it comes to leading the Sunni masses in their righteous uprising against the U.S.-backed Iraqi Shiite regime. So while the Sunni workers and oppressed have every right to rise up against the oppression of the U.S./Iranian-backed regime, they are being led by reactionary forces whose New Caliphate only trades one form of oppression for another. ISIS does not fight imperialism, it fosters sectarian rivalries and will tomorrow broker a deal via their regional bourgeois and monarchist sponsors with one imperialist bloc or the other.

Today, ISIS fights the Kurds on one side and al-Abadi on the other, while they are on the receiving end of U.S./coalition air strikes



which are far from pinpoint and kill more civilians than ISIS militants. While workers have no interest in supporting ISIS politically, in the theater of war there is a pecking order of military targets. So while ISIS is firing upon coalition forces, revolutionary forces, to the extent that it is tactically possible without endangering their own fighters should stand back and shoot in the same direction against the imperialists. ***Nevertheless, while ISIS is targeting the forces of the revolution no such tacit military bloc is possible. ISIS has been doing this for years, so such a bloc would be suicidal for the working masses under these conditions.*** It should go without saying that no suicidal military bloc with any of the forces of the imperialist coalition is permissible either. Such a confusion would be pure poison for the revolutionary fighters. The Syrian, Sunni, Shiite and Kurdish workers and military detachments must fight to overcome sectarian division politically and maintain their independence from the reactionary forces of the New Caliphate, the al-Abadi regime, the Assad regime and the coalition of imperialists. Multi-ethnic, secular workers self defense guards based in local democratic popular councils are the only road toward peace through the advance of the Arab revolution toward the unfolding Permanent Revolution.

### U.S. Goals and Strategy

The U.S. is going to war again in the Middle East to replace the regimes that no longer serve its imperialist interests. Bashar al-Assad was tolerated by the U.S. and Israel even though he was allied to Iran and Russia, because his dictatorship was a bastion against a popular revolution in Syria. The U.S. refused to arm the rebels with anti-aircraft missiles hoping that Assad and the rebels would fight to a standstill and a new pro-U.S. regime would emerge. This has failed and ISIS has filled the vacuum created by the 3 year war. Then ISIS spread to Iraq and threatened to overthrow the U.S. puppet Maliki. Once again the U.S. stepped in to prop the regime up, bombing ISIS in the north and arming the Kurds, while it worked to replace Maliki with a regime more friendly to the U.S. than Iran.

The strategy of the U.S. is to create a huge panic about ISIS terrorists returning to the 'homelands' to justify the ruthless bombing of the territory controlled by ISIS. But ISIS is much less a threat to U.S. domination of the region, not to mention the homelands, than it is the enemy of the popular resistance that is capable of breaking from both the U.S. bloc and the China/Russia bloc. ISIS is the product of imperialist invasion, wars and occupation of the Middle East since WW1. It is a reactionary social movement that has grown up around warlords like Bin Laden only because imperialism, in cahoots with the Arab leaders and Stalinist parties, seek at all

times to destroy the Arab national revolution. The Ba'athists and Nasserites ended up in bed with the U.S. and Israel and leaving the masses prey to the appeal of sectarian movements.

The U.S. aim is to bring the Sunni and Kurd comprador bourgeoisies into a Shiite-dominated government that is a vassal of the western imperialist bloc. There is nothing new in this policy except the opponent of the moment. Today's 'boogey-man' ISIS is led by former leaders of al-Qaeda in Iraq (AQI). Thanks to U.S. intervention their political influence has grown at the expense of former Ba'athist party membership. And today they are poised to capture, depending mostly on what the U.S. does, the support and participation of the Iraqi 'no-future' generation who have survived a lifetime of U.S. bombings and sanctions and who are offered \$400.00 a month to carry a rifle for the New Caliphate.

Workers should ask themselves whether they ever wonder where the funding for these reactionary insurgent groups like ISIS comes from today. It is fairly well known that Rep. Charlie Wilson for the Republicans and National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski for the Democrats organized the dollar conduits for the Afghan Mujahedeen in 1979, a funding supply gleefully joined by construction magnate Osama bin Laden. But nowadays members, and it can even be said a wing of, the ruling classes in Kuwait and the Gulf States [raise funds](#) for ISIS and al-Qaeda alike.<sup>11</sup>

***What the U.S. bourgeoisie is really fighting for is a chance to make the resulting Iraqi state beholden to the U.S. imperialist bloc and all that that implies, including gaining more oil territory parcels in future auctions at the expense of the Chinese/ Russian bloc. And part of their long term strategy is to retake Iran out of the political and economic orbit of the China/ Russia bloc.*** Recently Kerry (and now also Cameron at the UN) told the Iranians that they would be welcome to play a part in the war against ISIS. This invitation should be seen in light of this long term policy goal.

Who supports Obama's new Iraq war? No surprise he has the same supporters as Bush had in the last Iraq war. All the hereditary monarchies and their suites of lackeys are depending on imperialism to sustain their rule; they are the nominal landlords for where the oil rigs pump profits to the western oil oligarchs. This is particularly true given the Arab Spring uprisings and the rising discontent of the masses. Only the intervention of Saudi troops in March, 2011, sustained the Bahraini monarchy and crushed a mass popular uprising.

The bourgeoisie does not have a new plan for the wealth of Iraq. They have not succeeded in re-jiggering the Iraqi government post-Maliki. The neo-liberal plan was to buy militias with cash and buy the whole population with shares of oil stocks (presumably worth 5.8k/year). Iraq is not Alaska and this is no more attractive now than it was in 2005, when proposed by the [Hoover Foundation](#).<sup>12</sup>

### For the Right of the Kurds to National Self-determination

How did ISIS think they were going to win Kurds to the Islamic State project? When the Sunnis were running the show, Saddam gassed the Kurds and the Kurds fought back. The Iraqi Kurds have been more or less autonomous from at least 2011. There was even the preposterous situation where al-Maliki issued orders of arrest for his Kurdish vice president.

For ISIS to be beheading Kurds who are not Sunnis was bound to cost them politically. Sunni Iraq was a fairly westernized society. Unlike Saudi Arabia, women enjoyed many rights during the period of Ba'athist republicanism and were not legal chattel of their fathers or husbands. Now with ISIS attacking Kurds in northern Syria, [140,000 Kurds](#) have fled into Turkey.<sup>13</sup>

The woman's question is a strategic question for the MENA working class, as it is for the international working class.

As a [Kurdish woman](#) of the YPG (People's Protection Units) stated a few days before she was killed:

*"The field is something divine. It reminds me of my comrades who died. They were with me in the same trench. I was obliged to take up arms because the islamists want to take us back to the Middle Ages and reduce women to slavery."*<sup>14</sup>

The U.S. has changed its position on the national rights of the Kurds many times over the last several decades. As Marxists, even though we stand for a world without borders, we do support the bourgeois democratic right to national self-determination of the Kurdish people, not just in Iraq, but in Turkey, Iran, Russia, and Syria also. This defense of democratic rights is part and parcel of the fight for socialist revolution in the region. ***For a socialist Kurdistan as part of a socialist federation of the Near East!*** In the same vein, the rights of the Palestinian people will never be realized as long as the Zionist Israeli U.S. client-state exists and Palestinians are under the yoke of world imperialism. These national liberation

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struggles can only be realized through the working class taking power throughout the region. ***The Israeli Zionist state must be smashed by united working class struggle of Arab and Jewish workers that establishes a secular socialist workers Palestine!***

### **Democrats: One of the Twin Parties of U.S. Imperialist Slaughter!**

As yet another bourgeois electoral circus rolls around in America, Obama beats the drums of war and the liberals beat political drums for the Democratic Party of Hiroshima, Korea and Vietnam Wars, Bay of Pigs and the current War on Terror abroad and NSA spying at home. There was overwhelming bi-partisan support for the genocidal Zionist Israeli bombing of Gaza, even the so-called Progressive Caucus, of which only 6 of 65 members even expressed formal opposition. Fake-socialist Bernie Sanders, a long-time supporter of Israel, did not oppose the unanimous Senate resolution supporting Israel during the Gaza massacre. Sanders even told protesters at a Town Hall meeting to “shut up” when challenged on his position. Obama’s current campaign has more divided support, but both the Democrats and Republicans are majority on-board, leaving wiggle room for both parties if this whole scheme backfires.

As far as the social-imperialist AFL-CIO and Change to Win trade union bureaucracies, they are not only **not** organizing opposition to this war, but gearing up for the November elections to make sure the Democrats win. As Trotsky wrote in 1938 of the union and left bureaucracy:

***“Those working class “leaders” who want to chain the proletariat to the war chariot of imperialism, covered by the mask of “democracy,” are now the worst enemies and the direct traitors of the toilers. We must teach the workers to hate and despise the agents of imperialism, since they poison the consciousness of the toilers; we must explain to the workers that fascism is only one of the forms of imperialism, that we must fight not against the external symptoms of the disease but against its organic causes, that is, against capitalism.”*** Leon Trotsky, [\*Anti-imperialist Struggle is Key to Liberation\*](#)

### **The Left**

The [\*Revolutionary Left Movement in Syria\*](#) recently released a position against the bombings by the U.S.-led International Coalition:

***“We do not welcome these bombings, even though we have called since the advent of these reactionary and fascist forces to oppose them because they are hostile to***

***the popular revolt, unlike the positions of the various liberal opposition bodies linked the Syrian National Council and the National Coalition for Syrian Revolution and Opposition Forces, which consider them by all their foolishness and immorality as components of the revolution. We oppose and strongly condemn the bombings and imperialist military intervention in Syria and call to confront it, in opposition to the Liberal bodies of the Syrian National Council and of the National Coalition for Syrian Revolution and Opposition Forces that welcomed it”***<sup>15</sup>

International working class solidarity in action is desperately needed. Unfortunately much of the left has abandoned the Syrian and Arab revolutions, aligning with the comprador bourgeoisies of the region, such as Assad, Hamas or Ghadafi. This means the abandonment of the fight for the revolutionary Marxist political program for the Middle East and North Africa and for the international working class. Generally we can characterize these errors as one of two varieties: neo-Stalinism, which sees a revolutionary role in the democratic revolution for the colonial national bourgeoisie, the other are the varieties of Orientalism which recognize no Arab national revolution, or sees the uprisings of the Arab Spring as U.S. imperialist inspired, or sees no Arab working class. Still other anomalous takes on the Arab revolution that befuddle the international working class vanguard are such positions as advocated by the Workers’ Power/League for a Fifth International (LSI) tendency, the Committee for a Workers International (CWI), in the U.S. their section is Socialist Alternative (Soc Alt), and the Internationalist Leninist Trotskyist Fraction (FLTI) based in Argentina.

In a front page article in their September 23<sup>rd</sup> edition, byline Tom Crean, Socialist Alternative gave a boiler-plate historical account of the U.S. debacle in Iraq but offered no political program for the international working class apart from prescribing socialism, presumably to be achieved by socialist electoral campaigns.<sup>16</sup> Elsewhere we have dealt with Socialist Alternative’s domestic politics, but their worldview is no different in substance and we regard them as a Kautskyian political phenomenon.

Workers Power, when it was the flagship of the League for the Revolutionary Communist International (LRCI), produced what should have been a seminal restatement and vivifying of modern revolutionary Marxism in the “Trotskyist Manifesto” (1989).<sup>17</sup> Scarcely was the ink dry when the League failed its first major test when it misjudged what the Boris Yeltsin faction of capitalist restorationists were consolidating, which was not expanded democracy but fast-track capitalist counterrevolution. Today Workers

Power stands at the head of the League for a Fifth International and they dismiss the righteous uprising of the Iraqi Sunni population as a reactionary movement. For a leadership based in the former colonial power this is a remarkable display of political blindness and in scale it rivals the misleadership proffered to the UK working class by the Healyite sects.

Much more grave is the misapprehension of the international situation the Arab national revolution finds itself in that is promoted by the FLTI. This is a life or death question on the ground, and not only because of the misunderstanding of world politics it spreads in the region where the class and inter-imperialist conflicts are most fiercely joined, but because they also endanger the lives of the recruits to the heroic Leon Sedov Brigade who are fighting Assad’s murderous forces arms in hand. The FLTI does not recognize the existence of Chinese or Russian imperialism, never mind the collisions between the Beijing/Moscow bloc and the Washington-led imperialist bloc. For the FLTI the imperialist division of the world’s markets was accomplished once and for all time by the First World War as described in Lenin’s *Imperialism the Highest Stage of Capitalism*. To the FLTI we say that Lenin’s “Imperialism” is not a catechism, but a methodology. And that history permits of no unalterable arrangements.

For the FLTI all of the overseas foreign direct investment flying out of China and Russia into Southeast Asia, Africa, South America, Britain, Canada and even the U.S., is nothing other than the round-tripping of U.S. capital from overseas U.S. imperialist institutions and stock companies. This view becomes a hopeless mess when applied to Syria, Iran, Iraq and the Middle East. The FLTI has never told us what they think the Shanghai Cooperation Organization is, but this does not mean it doesn’t exist. It is in fact the cause of Obama’s Pacific Pivot and we have yet to hear how the FLTI explains the obvious collision of interests in the East Sea/South China Sea, in Ukraine, or explain why the China/Russia bloc backs Assad while the U.S. tries to find a new pro-U.S. Syrian vassal. For the FLTI we have Assad backed by U.S.-agent Russia(!). Additionally, rival moderate bourgeois factions backed by the U.S.; and a reactionary bourgeois ISIS backed by U.S.-agents Turkey and Saudi Arabia. Fighting? Why would there be fighting?

Assuming for a moment that these are true facts, why would these forces be at loggerheads? Could it be because the U.S. cannot control Assad who belongs to Russia? Or because the U.S.-aligned moderate bourgeoisie are too weak to control the masses, and because the reactionary ISIS has broken its leash and wants a New Caliphate



and is sitting on valuable oil reserves? Serious observers have to yell out 'stop all this nonsense!' Assad would be long gone were it not for the troops of Hezbollah and the support of Iran and the supply train of weapons and munitions from Russia. Iran has an observer-status membership in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. And Russia enjoys a warm water naval base on the Mediterranean, a centuries old geo-strategic dream of Russian rulers, thanks to Assad.

The FLTI cannot see that when it comes to smashing the revolution, the two imperialist blocs can compromise until the stakes become too high. The stakes become too high when local elements start to destabilize their deal over access to oil. Hence, the U.S. tried to advance their alternate regime in Syria by trying to get Assad to compromise, to abdicate leaving his regime in all essentials intact. But that plan got knocked down by the masses. So in the meantime, the U.S. blocks all deliveries of MANPADS from reaching the LCCs, a fact members of the Leon Sedov Brigade must acknowledge whether the FLTI does or not. Such MANPADS could be game changers against Assad's helicopters and barrel bombs. Then the U.S. tried to get Russia to get rid of Assad to allow an alternate regime to replace him. The U.S. even threatened to bomb Assad when he used poison gas, until according to the FLTI, their Russian asset made a deal that allowed Assad to stay(!).

So we have a stalemate and the vacuum in the North favoring a pro-U.S. Kurdistan. But the revolution keeps on going on, and ISIS is promoted to smash it. But then why would it be necessary we have to ask, if Assad is ultimately a U.S. asset? How can a world hegemon be so stupid it can't control its assets? So ISIS versus the LCCs becomes a new front. The LCCs are then fighting on three fronts, which was **our** position from the start. The FLTI pretends that it was only when ISIS got too big for its boots and tried to destabilize the deals in Syria and Iraq by building a New Caliphate that there appeared to arise a difference between U.S. imperialism and its subordinate Russia. This is how they explain how it became time for the U.S. to step in and use the war against ISIS as the pretext for war against the non-sectarian revolution in both countries. We certainly do agree that this is what Obama is up to right now, but the FLTI does its Leon Sedov Brigade a great disservice by spinning webs of U.S. hegemony and ignoring the inter-imperialist rivalry turning the Arab Revolutions into proxy wars. The increasing violence and frequency of the collisions between the U.S.-led imperialist bloc, as its economic power declines, with its rivals the rising China/Russia/BRICS bloc led by the SCO, is leading to proxy wars and foretell

a coming inter-imperialist world war that only triumphant proletarian revolution can prevent. The present analysis of the Munzer leadership of the FLTI does nothing to orient the international working class to prevent this cataclysm. This is why we speak of them as a misleadership *sui generis*.

### For Permanent Revolution!

With the destruction of the Soviet Union in 1991 and the restoration of capitalism, much of the world's oppressed masses no longer look towards socialism as a beacon of hope like they did through much of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, despite the betrayals of Stalinism and social democracy. This degradation of workers consciousness, along with the mass imperialist slaughter and devastation, has opened the gate for reactionary religious groups like ISIS to gain a footing among the desperate masses who are seeking a solution. As Marxists, we seek to re-orient the struggle on the basis of proletarian internationalism, both against the national bourgeois regimes in the region and all imperialist powers. We stand for the building of revolutionary Leninist parties and Permanent Revolution throughout MENA.

Trotsky's theory of Permanent Revolution states that in the colonial and semi-colonial countries with combined and uneven development under imperialist exploitation, the national bourgeoisie in these nations is tied to social backwardness and the remains of feudalism and also to imperialist capital, and are incapable of carrying out the unfinished democratic tasks of the great bourgeois revolutions. [Trotsky](#) insisted that these tasks fell to the working class in countries with belated capitalist development, that "democracy and national emancipation is conceivable only through the dictatorship of the proletariat as the leader of the subjugated nation, above all of its peasant masses."<sup>18</sup>

American workers don't have to look far to find their enemy. It is the capitalist ruling class right here at home that has driven the standard of living of the workers and oppressed downward, with job cuts, layoffs, low-wage jobs, cuts in social benefits, and racist police terror against the Black, Brown and immigrant communities. On top of this, capitalism is leading to environmental destruction. In late September a liberal led group of capitalists and NGOs want to tell American workers that they have a capitalist solution to the climate change crisis, one that involves a "low carbon future", but in fact they have no plan. It is in the interests of the U.S. working class to unite through labor actions with their working class Arab, Persian and Kurdish sisters and brothers, with all the working masses of the Near East to defeat Obama's war. Driving the U.S. and EU war

machine out of MENA would be a tremendous victory for the entire world's working class.

- **American workers: The main enemy is at home!**
- **Organize mass labor-centered protests and workers actions against Obama's war!**
- **Transport workers boycott military goods!**
- **For labor political strikes against the war!**
- **Down with anti-Arab, anti-Muslim and anti-immigrant racism!**
- **For international working-class/labor solidarity actions!**
- **All out for the emergency actions for the 41,000 Egyptian political prisoners!**
- **Victory to the Arab Spring across the whole of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA)!**
- **U.S. forces OUT of the region NOW!**
- **Victory to the Palestinian liberation movement!**
- **Defeat Zionism! For a multi-ethnic secular workers state in Palestine!**
- **For a revolutionary socialist Kurdistan in the socialist MENA!**
- **Down with the feudal monarchies and all theocracies!**
- **For Permanent Revolution!**
- **For a Socialist Federation of the Middle East and North Africa!**
- **Down with Democratic/Republican parties of war!**
- **Build an internationalist workers party to organize opposition to imperialist wars!**
- **For a workers government to sweep away the imperialist, pro-war ruling class!**
- **For a revolutionary workers international!**

## Class Warrior

Theoretical Journal Of the Liaison Committee of Communists

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### BRICS Around the Neck of the Proletariat



The Sixth BRICS Summit meeting was held in Brazil in July. The occasion was one of wheeling and dealing between the two big BRICS bloc leaders and their Latin American supporters looking to set up an alternative to the traditional U.S. dominance of the continent and an alternative to U.S. global financial hegemony. The leaders also took time out to test the loyalty of U.S. allies in the EU, facing U.S.-dictated sanctions on Russia that will cost the EU economies billions. Putin used the BRICS World Cup to meet Merkel and discuss Ukraine. No doubt Russia is motivated to strengthen the much into Latin America as a rival to the U.S. Administration to much NATO's right on occasion its

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## International Labor Defense

*An Injury to One is an Injury to All!*

**For International Working Class Defense of All Class War Prisoners and Victims of Capitalist State Repression!**

The CWG stands for the non-sectarian working class defense of class war prisoners and all the oppressed based upon the old Wobbly principle that "An Injury to One is an Injury to All!"

We place no faith in the capitalist courts, government agencies or labor boards to achieve justice. We call for the united International Working Class in alliance with the oppressed to come to the defense of all victims of capitalist state repression with class struggle methods. This means not only union resolutions but mass labor mobilizations and political strikes.

### 23 Egyptian Activists Sentenced: Free All Egyptian Political Prisoners!



Sanaa Seif, rights activist and lawyer Yara Sallam along with three other defendants, appear in prison garb ahead of one of their trial hearings (Photo: Courtesy of Free Sanaa Facebook page)

In late October, 23 activists were sentenced to three years in jail by an Egyptian court for organizing 'illegal' protests and for "stirring chaos, illegal assembly, vandalism and possessing arms or fireworks." Those convicted include "activist Sanaa Seif, sister of prominent activist and blogger Alaa Abdel-Fattah, rights lawyer Yara Sallam, photojournalist Abdel-Rahman Mohamed of Al-Badil news website and photographer Rania El-Sheikh." Amnesty International called these accusations "baseless" and farcical" and called for the release of these activists.

**We call on the international working class to take up their defense!**

These sentences come on the heels of brutal state repression by the U.S. supported el-Sisi regime backed by the military. Along with the Rab'a Square massacre by the Egyptian Security forces in August of 2013 which killed "at least 817 and likely more than 1,000..." thousands of Leftists, trade-unionists, journalists and Islamists have been arrested.

The Rab'a Square massacre was called by

Human Rights Watch "*one of the world's largest killings of demonstrators in a single day in recent history.*" From Ferguson in the U.S. to Egypt, there is no justice for the workers and oppressed under capitalism.

Over 1000 death sentences have been handed down against Morsi supporters, with some having since been commuted to life. This brutal regime has also deported Palestinian refugees to Gaza and Syria.

That this regime fears the organized working class can also be shown by the police violence and torture directed against trade union militants. It is the self-mobilization of the masses, particularly the working class, that has the power to bring justice!

**An injury to one is an injury to all!**

**Drop all charges and free all Egyptian political prisoners! For mass demonstrations and labor political strikes to demand their release!**

<http://www.counterpunch.org/2014/08/14/us-still-funding-repression/>

<http://www.hrw.org/node/127933/section/3>

<http://menasolidaritynetwork.com/2014/08/14/one-year-on-no-justice-for-victims-of-mass-killing-in-egypt/>

<http://english.ahram.org.eg/NewsContent/1/64/113998/Egypt/Politics-/Updated-Egypt-court-sentences--activists-to-three-.aspx>

<http://menasolidaritynetwork.com/2014/09/24/egypt-trade-union-rights-campaigners-condemn-police-torture-of-workers/>

## Libertad para Nestora! Free Nestora Salgado!



Indigenous activist Nestora Salgado has been detained since August by Mexican authorities. Seized by Federales without an arrest warrant and held incommunicado in a maximum security prison, she has been tortured through sleep deprivation techniques and denied her medicine and physical activity required as a result of an auto injury.

Nestora has been targeted for her community policing efforts against organized crime among the indigenous peoples in the state of Guerrero. These community police are in effect embryonic workers militias that present a threat to the corrupt-ridden Mexican capitalist state. While some within the militia have apparently turned over criminals to the bourgeois state, Nestora refused. This is the contradictory nature of popular defense guards. Without a revolutionary party or program, vast illusions in the capitalist state appear in the political vacuum..

The rights of the indigenous people must be defended as part of the fight against world capitalism. As Hortensia Colorado, an indigenous immigrant woman from Mexico, stated at a Seattle rally last year:

"...the Mexican government's orchestrated plan to drive the poor and indigenous people off their land in order to hand it over to large-scale international mining corporations to extract gold, silver and other natural resources. She called it a continuation of the destruction of indigenous people and their land base that has gone on, unabated, for over 500 years."

**Drop all charges and free Nestora now!**

**Hands off the Indigenous Peoples of Guerrero! Defend their right to their land!**

<http://www.socialism.com/drupal-6.8/?q=node/2863>

<http://freenestora.org/>



## Palestinian Rights Activist Targeted by Homeland Security:

### Rescind the Conviction! For the Immediate Release of Rasmea Odeh!

Obama's Department of Justice has targeted immigrant and civil liberties activist Rasmea Odeh on spurious charges of "unlawful procurement of naturalization" for allegedly not mentioning her time spent *in an Israeli prison* on her naturalization application 10 years ago! This is bogus. It is because she is an outspoken defender of Palestinian rights and has openly exposed her torture in an Israeli prison, including sexual abuse, that she is being victimized.

Found guilty in November in an unfair trial where the judge "made a number of rulings that made her defense virtually impossible..." her defense was not allowed to enter her torture and sexual abuse at the hands of the Israeli state into evidence, thus seriously undermining her defense. Judge Gershwin Drai did allow her conviction in Israel to be entered though, where the courts convict 99% of Palestinians brought to trial, making even the racist American system of capitalist injustice look impartial. The judge also rejected her selective prosecution motion. The Obama administration was hell-bent on imprisoning and deporting this courageous Palestinian activist.

200 people came to Chicago to support Rasmea throughout her trial. As we go to press, New York activists are holding a rally in her defense on November 14th. These rallies need to be expanded worldwide and the international working class needs to demand her immediate freedom and that the conviction be overturned as part of the defense of the Palestinians and of our class. *Organize labor actions to free all class war prisoners!*

Those who have stood for the rights of Palestine in the face of Israel's genocidal attack on Gaza have been targeted also in a campaign that has shades of the McCarthy era. The Revolutionary Student Coordinating Committee at CUNY has detailed the repression Palestinian activists face, which is part and parcel of the witchhunt against pro-Palestinian academics and students:

*"In the City University of New York (CUNY), SJP's face much repression for trying to build international solidarity for Palestine. SJP at Brooklyn College has to admit guests at their events through metal detectors, and recently SJP at John Jay College was publicly denounced by school authorities after zionists on campus complained that their feelings were hurt following a Die In/Vigil in solidarity with Palestine. Currently CUNY serves to*

*reproduce the oppression and subjugation of oppressed nationality communities in NYC, and we are fighting to liberate the university. In a CUNY that is controlled by the people, SJP's and all other progressive organizations can build the movement without being impeded by reactionaries."*

<http://thehill.com/blogs/pundits-blog/international/208699-why-is-obamas-doj-prosecuting-a-torture-victim>

<http://www.fightbacknews.org/2014/10/22/detroit-court-hearing-weighs-torture-case-rasmea-odeh>

<http://revolutionarystudents.wordpress.com/2014/11/10/if-rasmea-odeh-is-guilty-we-are-all-guilty/>

<http://www.stopfbi.net/2014/11/10/without-full-and-fair-trial-rasmea-found-guilty>

### Zionist Witchhunt on Campuses: Down with the University of Illinois Targeting of Steven Salaita!

One of the bastions of American intellectual "freedom", the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, threw out the Bill of Rights and denied tenure to Steven Salaita due to his Tweets against the Israeli Zionist assault on the Palestinians.

Salaita is now touring campuses across the U.S.A. speaking on a number of topics including Palestine and North America from a Native American viewpoint, and the history and practice of academic freedom. The Salaita case has been a lightning rod and even the university president who denied Salaita tenure confessed that this decision was made above her level of authority by the university Board of Trustees.

### Free Shireen Issawi! Release all her family!

Arrested on March 16, 2014 by the Israeli authorities with her two brothers, Medhat and Shadi on bogus accusations, Shireen remains in detention for the 'crime' of being an outspoken defender of her other brother, Samer, who engaged in a 270 day hunger strike in protest of being detained without trial. The entire Issawi family has faced relentless arrest and imprisonment by the Zionist Israeli state for their struggle for Palestinian rights since 1967, when their village was occupied by Israeli forces.

Statements of support can be sent to:  
[defenders.human@gmail.com](mailto:defenders.human@gmail.com)

<http://electronicintifada.net/content/israels-relentless-persecution-issawi-family/1336>

## Free Mumia Abu-Jamal! Smash PA Gag Law!



In an outrageous attack on the Constitutional right to free speech, the Pennsylvania Legislature passed a law in October aimed at silencing Mumia Abu-Jamal, the "Voice of the Voiceless." The "Revictimization Relief Act" grants powers to D.A.'s and crime victim's families to claim "mental anguish" in order to silence the free speech of prisoners. It would even apply to those who have served their sentence. The right to speech is not predicated on how comfortable or uncomfortable it makes the public. This is nothing but an attempt by the state to silence Mumia, a fighter for justice against American injustice. Since the state can't legally murder him (his death sentence was commuted in 2011), they resort to other means.

Falsely convicted of the murder of a police officer in 1982 in a sham trial, Mumia faced lethal injection for nearly 30 years. It was only mass international protest, including labor support, that saved the life of this innocent man.

<http://www.laboractionmumia.org>

### Hands Off Marissa Alexander! Drop All Charges!

Marissa Alexander is facing retrial and a mandatory 60 year sentence if she is found guilty. This trial is scheduled to begin on December 8th in Florida. She rejected a three year plea bargain because she maintained her innocence and has no previous criminal record and is determined to live her life unmolested. She is a mother of three with an MBA degree and she is in this predicament because she's a survivor of domestic violence who defended herself. The state Attorney General Angela Corey is determined to get Marissa sentenced to 60 years and Marissa was denied a new "Stand Your Ground" hearing.

Released on bond and under home detention as we write, she is charged \$105 per week for the rental of her ankle monitor and \$500 every other week for her bond cost. Florida is going after Marissa with a vengeance. Clearly the big money fears black women with pistols and Masters degrees. Marissa has been subjected to a disinformation campaign and state prosecutor Corey has been a main source. **Free Marissa Alexander! Drop all charges now!**

<http://www.freemarissanow.org/>

## What we Fight For

### We fight to overthrow Capitalism

Historically, capitalism expanded world-wide to free much of humanity from the bonds of feudal or tribal society, and developed the economy, society and culture to a new higher level. But it could only do this by exploiting the labour of the productive classes to make its profits. To survive, capitalism became increasingly destructive of “nature” and humanity. In the early 20th century it entered the epoch of imperialism in which successive crises unleashed wars, revolutions and counter-revolutions. Today we fight to end capitalism’s wars, famine, oppression and injustice, by mobilising workers to overthrow their own ruling classes and bring to an end the rotten, exploitative and oppressive society that has exceeded its use-by date.

### We fight for Socialism

By the 20th century, capitalism had created the pre-conditions for socialism –a world-wide working class and modern industry capable of meeting all our basic needs. The potential to eliminate poverty, starvation, disease and war has long existed. The October Revolution proved this to be true, bringing peace, bread and land to millions. But it became the victim of the combined assault of imperialism and Stalinism. After 1924 the USSR, along with its deformed offspring in Europe, degenerated back towards capitalism. In the absence of a workers political revolution, capitalism was restored between 1990 and 1992. Vietnam and China then followed. In the 21st century only North Korea survives as a degenerated workers state. We unconditionally defend the DPRK against capitalism and fight for political revolution to overthrow the bureaucracy as part of a world socialist revolution.

### We fight to defend Marxism

While the economic conditions for socialism exist today, standing between the working class and socialism are political, social and cultural barriers. They are the capitalist state and bourgeois ideology and its agents. These agents claim that Marxism is dead and capitalism need not be exploitative. We say that Marxism is a living science that explains both capitalism’s continued exploitation and its attempts to hide class exploitation behind the appearance of individual “freedom” and “equality”. It reveals how and why the reformist, Stalinist and centrist misleaders of the working class tie workers to bourgeois ideas of nationalism, racism, sexism and equality. Such false beliefs will be exploded when the struggle against the inequality, injustice, anarchy and barbarism of capitalism in crisis, led by a revolutionary Marxist party, produces a revolutionary class-consciousness.

### We fight for a Revolutionary Party

The bourgeoisie and its agents condemn the Marxist party as totalitarian. We say that without a democratic and a centrally organised party there can be no revolution. We base our beliefs on the revolutionary tradition of Bolshevism and Trotskyism. Such a party, armed with a transitional program, forms a bridge that joins the daily fight to defend all the past and present gains won from capitalism to the victorious socialist revolution. Defensive struggles for bourgeois rights and freedoms, for decent wages and conditions, will link up the struggles of workers of all nationalities, genders, ethnicities and sexual orientations, bringing about movements for workers control, political strikes and the arming of the working class, as necessary steps to workers’ power and the smashing of the bourgeois state. Along the way, workers will learn that each new step is one of many in a long march to revolutionize every barrier put in the path to their victorious revolution.

### We fight for Communism

Communism stands for the creation of a classless, stateless society beyond socialism that is capable of meeting all human needs. Against the ruling class lies that capitalism can be made “fair” for all, that nature can be “conserved”, that socialism and communism are “dead”, we raise the red flag of communism to keep alive the revolutionary tradition of the Communist Manifesto of 1848, the Bolshevik-led October Revolution, the Third Communist International until 1924, and the revolutionary Fourth International up to its collapse into centrism, with the closing of the International Center. We fight to build a new Communist International, as a world party of socialism capable of leading workers to a victorious struggle for socialism.

**Join us: Where overthrowing capitalism is all in a days work !!!**

*“The significance of the program is the significance of the party. The party is the vanguard of the class. The party is formed by selection from the most conscious, most advanced, most devoted elements and the party can play an important historical political role not in direct relation to its numerical strength. It can be a small party and play a great part...”*

*...Now, what is the party? In what does the cohesion consist? This cohesion is a common understanding of the events, of the tasks, and this common understanding - that is the program of the party. Just as modern workers more than the barbarian cannot work without tools so in the party the program is the instrument. Without the program every worker must improvise his tool, find improvised tools, and one contradicts another.*

*Only when we have the vanguard organized upon the basis of common conceptions then we can act...*

*...Petty bourgeois anarchists and intellectuals are afraid to subscribe to giving a party common ideas, a common attitude. In opposition they wish moral programs. But for us this program is the result of common experience. It is not imposed upon anybody for whoever joins the party does so voluntarily....”*

-Leon Trotsky, “[On the Transitional Program](#)”, 1938

### Communist Workers Group – USA (CWG-US):

Email: [cwgclasswar@gmail.com](mailto:cwgclasswar@gmail.com)

Website: <http://cwgusa.wordpress.com/>

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